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Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 64/132, provides an assessment of national implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The report includes information about national efforts to establish ageing-specific policies and programmes and to integrate ageing concerns into national development plans and about activities of the United Nations system in support of ageing policies and recommendations for consideration by the Assembly. For a comprehensive overview of the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, see A/65/157.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	National progress on implementation	3
	A. Building national capacity on ageing	4
	B. Raising awareness of issues related to ageing	8
	C. Empowering older persons and promoting their rights	11
III.	Highlighting key issues related to ageing	12
	A. Neglect, abuse and violence	13
	B. Caregiving and carers	14
IV.	International cooperation in the implementation process	16
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	18

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 64/132, entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing", requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

2. The report provides an overview of efforts by Governments to address their implementation priorities under the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, with a focus on activities since 2008. Specifically, it examines national progress on implementation through a review of national policies on ageing and national development plans, including with regard to the development of a health-care workforce with an emphasis on geriatric care, data and research on older persons, national frameworks that encourage participation and volunteerism, campaigns to raise awareness of population ageing, the building of partnerships to advance advocacy on issues related to ageing and efforts to promote the human rights of older persons. The report also highlights key issues related to ageing, including abuse, neglect and violence, and programmes and policies that provide support to carers and caregiving. In addition, it provides an update of current activities of the United Nations system in the area of ageing. Conclusions and recommendations are presented for consideration by the General Assembly.

3. The report is based on submissions received from United Nations regional commissions and agencies and non-governmental organizations and other sources available to the Secretariat.

II. National progress on implementation

4. At its forty-seventh session, held in 2009, the Commission for Social Development was presented with a strategic implementation framework,[1] intended to assist Member States in focusing their efforts on implementing the Madrid Plan of Action through the remaining years of its first decade, until 2012. Although each country should determine its own priorities to advance the implementation process, commensurate with its current stage of economic and social development and phase of population ageing, the framework is intended to be universal. It identifies three principal policy approaches for national policy actions: developing national capacity on ageing; awareness-raising; and empowerment and participation.

5. The present report follows the structure set out in the strategic implementation framework as a means of analysing recent progress in the national implementation of the Madrid Plan. Efforts to build national capacity in the area of ageing are examined; initiatives to raise awareness about ageing are considered; and measures to empower older persons and promote their rights are reviewed. Since Member States are not required to report annually on their implementation efforts, the following merely provides a snapshot of national activities on ageing in recent years, drawn from a broad cross-section of countries.

[1] E/CN.5/2009/5.

A. Building national capacity on ageing

6. In order to successfully implement the Madrid Plan, Governments need the capacity to formulate and implement policies, enforce laws and legislation and develop a monitoring process that evaluates progress and challenges. If the success of the process is to be ensured, States must have the human resources, financial capacity, political will and organizational skills to see it through. Accordingly, Member States are encouraged to 'strengthen their efforts to develop national capacity in the area of ageing, including by building institutional infrastructure, investing in human resources, mobilizing financial resources and placing greater emphasis on research, data collection and analysis.

Incorporating ageing into national development frameworks

7. Although there is evidence that countries have established national plans and policies on ageing and integrated ageing into their national development plans, the extent to which that has been done varies considerably. Most developed and middle-income countries have implemented and carried out ageing-related policies that reflect both their demographic realities and their capacity to implement, enforce and monitor policies and programmes for older persons. On the other hand, in many developing countries, older persons remain a relatively small proportion of the population, and resource constraints and competing priorities can pose a serious obstacle to the full implementation of the Madrid Plan. Nevertheless, efforts have been made by both developing and developed countries to incorporate ageing into national development frameworks covering a broad range of topics, from housing to social allowances and workforce protection initiatives.

8. National ageing policies were recently adopted in Mauritius, Morocco, Slovakia Republic and Turkey. In 2008, Mauritius prepared a new national policy on ageing, which includes training and empowerment programmes to encourage older persons to adopt productive ageing philosophies and engage in income-generating activities. The policy will also enhance existing practices in the areas of health care, leisure, protection, intergenerational relationships and the environment.[2] Morocco included in its 2008-2010 strategic plan a national strategy for older persons, which covers income and pensions, health, housing and living conditions and the roles and rights of older persons in society. In 2009, Slovakia adopted a national programme for the protection of the elderly, which provides a framework for policymaking with regard to older persons. The programme covers social security, employment, family policy, education, safety, health care, housing, culture and media, taxes and fees, transportation, postal and telecommunication services, legal protection, the economy, agriculture and the environment.[3] In Turkey, the national Government, universities and scientific organizations prepared a report entitled "The situation of elderly people in Turkey and national plan of action on ageing", which was adopted and led to the recommendation of concrete solutions regarding the social, economic and medical concerns of older persons.

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[2] Helping our elderly to age with dignity and security, September 2008, available at http://www.gov.nu/portal/site/Mainhomepage/menuitema42b24128104d9845dabddd154508a0c/?content_id=49d660da09dac110VgnVCM1000000a04a8c0RCRD.

[3] Economic Commission for Europe, policy brief, "Mainstreaming ageing", November 2009, available at http://www.globalaging.org/agingwatch/events/regionals/ece/Policybrief_Mainstreaming_Eng.pdf.

9. Efforts to integrate older persons into national development plans were made in a number of countries. As part of its national development plan (2007-2013), Ireland committed €1.6 billion for community care services for older persons, including affordable housing, volunteer opportunities and subsidized transportation.[4]. In France, "Ageing well" (2007-2009) is part of the national development plan. Its objective is the adoption of a holistic approach to ageing. For example, the plan promotes healthy living, the prevention of medical conditions and improvements in living conditions and quality of life for older people. The plan also encourages the participation of older persons in social and cultural activities and intergenerational solidarity. In Thailand, the tenth national economic and social development plan, as well as the Government's administrative strategy, addressed the need for a long-term care system and a national savings fund, built the capacity of local authorities to implement a multidimensional approach to ageing programmes and facilitated the development of age-friendly housing and supportive environments.

10. A number of countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, China, France, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Serbia and Tunisia, have reported initiatives to improve access to affordable housing and promote "ageing in place" in their national policies. For example, France has launched a new campaign, "Living at home", to promote house adaptations and improve safety, quality of life, home technology and urban planning to provide better transportation and public spaces for older persons. In Antigua and Barbuda, programmes such as the home improvement grant have been introduced to help older persons make their homes more age-friendly.

11. Afghanistan, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam have specifically identified older persons as the beneficiaries of social allowance initiatives. For instance, the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 of the Philippines provides 500 to 1,500 Philippine pesos ($11 to $32) a month to older persons living in extreme poverty. In Mauritius, the 2008 national policy on ageing included income-generating activities, and article 37 of the Constitution of Ecuador provided for universal pensions. In Canada, as part of a stimulus package in 2009, older persons were given tax incentives and a social allowance to provide relief during the economic and financial crisis.

12. Some countries have made efforts to promote and protect the active involvement of older persons in the workforce. In Mexico, the national development plan (2007-2012) recognizes older persons as productive members of society by providing tax incentives for employers that hire older workers, implementing policies to protect older workers and granting a social allowance for persons over the age of 70. In Slovenia, the "Strategy of care for the elderly until 2010: solidarity, good intergenerational relations and quality ageing of the population" promotes employment for older workers by providing special income tax relief, regulates part-time and temporary work for retired persons, creates more flexible forms of employment, increases protections for older workers and provides lifelong learning programmes. Similarly, in Austria the Government has created policies to protect

[4] Ireland National Development Plan 2007-2013, "Transforming Ireland: a better quality of life for all", annual report 2007, available at http://www.ndp.ie/documents/publications/annual/NDP_AnnualReport2007.pdf.

older workers, encourages companies to hire them and promotes lifelong learning and job-training programmes to reintegrate them into the workforce.

Investing in human resources

13. An important component of national capacity-building is the strengthening of human resources to effectively deal with ageing-related issues. This includes providing appropriate training to health-care professionals, formal and informal caregivers, community service providers and budget and finance specialists, all of whom must be equipped to focus on both the current and the emerging needs of the older population. Building human-resource capacity also involves nurturing the human potential of older persons themselves. The experience, skills and wisdom of older persons are invaluable tools that can be enhanced through, inter alia, volunteer opportunities.

14. Given the accelerated pace of ageing in all countries, there is a particularly urgent need to reassess the health-care workforce to ensure that workers' skills and training correspond with the health requirements of an older population. To that end, several Member States have implemented a variety of programmes and policies to increase the number of health-care workers specializing in geriatric care. Such initiatives include student loan forgiveness plans, the provision of support for continuing education training in geriatric care for health-care professionals, training opportunities for volunteers to become professional caregivers and pay increases.

15. Australia adopted a new National Dementia Initiative, aimed at strengthening the capacity of health-care and aged-care workers and providing evidence-based prevention and early intervention, assessment, treatment and care for people with dementia. The programme commits $121 million Australian dollars for dementia care at home, research and training for aged-care and community-care staff, caregivers, community workers and police officers. In Ukraine, the Government has adopted a geriatric education and training programme for physicians, nurses, social workers and volunteers. Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and Yemen have provided skills-enhancement programmes for health-care workers in the public and private sectors.

16. In Hong Kong, China, and Singapore, informal caregivers are being recruited for training in geriatric care. Informal caregivers, who are mostly women caring for a disabled relative or an older person, receive training to become formal caregivers. The objective of the programme is to provide a bridge for those wanting to move from informal to formal qualifications and care settings and thereby increase the supply of skilled caregivers in the community.

17. Various countries, including Argentina, Costa Rica, Myanmar, Thailand and Uruguay, have created programmes that train young and older volunteers to become formal caregivers. The volunteers receive professional training in geriatric care and the provision of assistance with respect to daily living and other needs, providing a valuable human resource for home-based care. For example, in Thailand the Government has established a project of community volunteer caregivers for the elderly with the objective of training people from the community to be caregivers. Similarly, in Myanmar, "Home care for older persons", a joint initiative of the Republic of Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, provides volunteers with an opportunity to become caregivers in their community.

Older persons as volunteers

18. Another important aspect of human resources development is the cultivation of the talent and expertise of older persons themselves. Creating and promoting volunteer programmes for them can serve to meet unmet needs in the community as well as enhance older persons' feelings of value and worth. In Sri Lanka, older and younger women are working together to create home gardens throughout the country with a view to preventing food shortages. In 2008, Slovenia established a programme that matches older volunteers with home-bound elders to provide assistance and companionship. Similarly, in the United States of America, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009 encourages older persons to serve other older people who need assistance with daily tasks and to become foster grandparents to children with special needs.

19. In New Zealand, the Office of Senior Citizens, under the Ministry of Social Development, created a volunteer and advocacy group comprising 29 older persons selected from community organizations throughout the country. The group is responsible for implementing the volunteer community coordinators programme by strengthening networks in the local community and informing local governments about the needs and concerns of older persons. Older persons who have volunteered to serve as coordinators are recognized and honoured by being chosen as "positive ageing ambassadors". In India, the Volunteers Bureau for Older Persons helps older persons to utilize their skills, talents and experience for the benefit of society. Older persons register with the Bureau and offer their assistance to hospitals, schools and institutions for children with physical or mental disabilities.

20. Encouraging older persons and young people to volunteer together can also be a way of building intergenerational solidarity. Older persons can tutor and mentor young people and become foster grandparents to children with special needs. In many cases, older persons also share their pensions with their families so as to ensure that their grandchildren go to school or have access to medical care. Similarly, young people can volunteer to provide friendship to home-bound older persons, assisting with shopping and household chores, showing them how to use computers and other technological equipment and caring for them when they become sick and frail. One example of this intergenerational volunteering model can be found in the German "Create new age" initiative, which gathers young people and older persons together to take part in activities such as reading to schoolchildren, tutoring students, visiting nursing homes, helping people with disabilities and shopping for food.

Emphasizing research and data collection

21. Effective and evidence-based policy can be developed and advocated when valid, reliable and representative research and data are available to policymakers and civil society organizations. Data collection and research on older persons is more prevalent in developed countries, where financial capacity and human resources are available and the ageing population constitutes a considerable percentage of the general population. Even so, data and research have tended to focus on population ageing rather than on the situation of older persons, and thus have failed to measure the social, economic and cultural situations of older persons adequately.

22. To remedy that situation, a number of developed countries have devoted resources to improving data collection and research on the situation of older persons. For example, the Netherlands has made available €80 million for research to improve the diagnosis of somatic and psychiatric problems in older persons by conducting a comprehensive geriatric assessment of the health-care system and improving the coordination and care of older persons. In the United States, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the National Institute on Ageing received approximately $275 million of the funding allocated to the National Institutes on Health to conduct research on such issues as Alzheimer's disease, nutrition, obesity, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease, as well as health utilization, health disparities and support for family caregivers. Furthermore, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has developed a database of good policy practices based on examples submitted by the members of the ECE Working Group on Ageing. In order to supplement the research findings provided by its members, it has developed indicators, collected data and disseminated information through a website on ageing-related policies and strategies, national implementation activities, publications and networks and non-governmental organizations working in the field of ageing.

23. In general, research and data collection on older persons in developing countries remains limited, although there have been some recent commitments to improving data collection. For example, the Department for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission is developing plans for the establishment of an advisory council to promote policy, practice and research on ageing in the region. In addition, countries with limited financial and professional human resource capacities have partnered with United Nations agencies, international universities and non-governmental organizations to strengthen their data collection and policymaking capacity. For example, India is conducting two studies on ageing with the Harvard School of Public Health and the World Health Organization, respectively. Both studies, the first of their kind in India, will assist policy analysts and programme planners in making policy decisions related to labour supply, demand for and utilization of health care, the socio-economic well-being of older persons and their families and the burden of disease.

B. Raising awareness of issues related to ageing

24. As countries proceed with the implementation process, greater attention should be paid to raising awareness about ageing-related issues in general and the contents of the Madrid Plan in particular. Awareness-raising activities include developing media and political channels to improve access to information for and about older persons. This includes raising awareness among policymakers, stakeholders and the general public about the contributions that older persons make to society. Furthermore, it is essential to build partnerships among and between Governments, civil society, academia and the media in order to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities associated with population ageing.

Channels for raising awareness

25. Generalizations or assumptions about older persons can lead to negative stereotyping that serves only to exacerbate negative images and further marginalize older persons from society. The Madrid Plan encourages Governments to promote

positive images of ageing and emphasizes the vital contributions that older persons make to their societies.

26. In recognition of the important role older persons play in all aspects of society, Member States have taken initiatives to enhance and promote positive and realistic images of older persons. For example, in 2009, the Ministry of Social Affairs of Austria organized a workshop at which media experts and scientists were invited to develop strategies and instruments to create sustainable and modern images of ageing and older persons in the media with a view to countering depictions of older persons as either deficient, in bad health or in need of long-term care.

27. Furthermore in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Manchester City Council has developed the Positive Images Task Group aimed at promoting a positive and healthy attitude towards ageing; promoting healthy lifestyle choices that reduce the impact of ageing; challenging negative stereotypes of older people; encouraging the public to re-evaluate attitudes towards older people; and urging local agencies to revisit the way in which they deal with and deliver services to older people. The task group has produced calendars and newsletters and provides a forum in which older persons in the community can express their concerns. In addition, it holds an annual "Full of life" festival to celebrate the achievements of older persons.

28. In Canada, the National Advisory Council on Seniors has produced a series of "report cards on aging" that assess the quality of life, health, income security and social connections of older adults. Its work has been cited by researchers, policymakers and the media and has been important in raising the consciousness of the Canadian public about issues related to ageing.

29. Other initiatives that Governments have taken to improve the image of older persons include the organization of activities through which their value, worth and achievements are recognized. These include designating a day or a month to celebrate older persons. In this regard, many countries have found unique ways to honour older persons as part of their celebrations for the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October. Throughout the month of October, the Government of Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyz non-governmental organizations provide free clothing and food to poor older persons, and in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Government provides free health care to older persons. In Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has designated October as "Employment Support for the Elderly Month" with a view to raising awareness about older workers through educational activities aimed at fostering employment opportunities for older workers, a public symposium, demonstrations of successful best practices by Japanese companies, exhibits and contests.[5] In addition, the ministry publishes an educational journal on ageing and employment entitled "Elder" and books and pamphlets that address issues relating to employment for older persons and produces television commercials and posters intended to educate the public about the value of older workers.

30. In Australia, the Government celebrates "Seniors Week", which recognizes the valuable contributions that Australian seniors make to their communities. Related

[5] Japan Organization for Employment of the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities, "Educational activities concerning employment of the elderly", available at http://www.jeed.or.jp/english/educational_activity_eld.html.

events include information sessions on computing, dancing, cooking and exercise classes, environmental, activities and concerts and movies. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Government has designated several days throughout the year to celebrate the achievements of older people, including the "Day of Service to Seniors", "Place for Seniors Day" and "Delivery Service Day", which showcase the good works that people have done for older persons. In China, the Government celebrates "Senior Citizens' Day" by promoting educational, cultural and intergenerational activities to help older persons understand their rights. Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon and Qatar also have designated national days to honour older persons by promoting training workshops and displaying handicrafts made by older persons.

Building partnerships

31. The building of the partnerships at both the national and the multilateral levels between Governments, civil society and academic and research institutions contributes to the sharing of best practices, facilitates financial assistance and increases knowledge about population ageing and the situation of older persons. The advocacy and research that entities in those sectors provide serve to strengthen the rights of older persons, enlighten Government officials so that they can develop policies and programmes that benefit the older population and educate the general public about the importance of ageing-related issues.

32. At the national level, non-governmental organizations, academia and research institutions play an important role in building the capacity of Governments to address the situation of older persons. Non-governmental organizations in developed countries frequently advocate on behalf of older persons by meeting with Government representatives and issuing press releases and reports on matters that affect older persons. In developing countries, where financial and human resource capacities on ageing-related issues are often lacking, non-governmental organizations, foundations and academic institutions based in developed countries can sometimes fill the gap. They can conduct research, collect data, provide training to Government personnel, empower older persons to ensure that their rights are respected and work with Governments to incorporate the Madrid Plan into their development or poverty eradication plans. In some cases such organizations assist Government ministries in creating national ageing plans.

33. At the multilateral level, cooperation between developed and developing countries, as well as South-South cooperation, enhances the ability of low-income countries to implement the Madrid Plan. For instance, in 2009, the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Elderly Affairs of Tunisia and the Minister of Family and Solidarity of Benin met to discuss ways in which they could strengthen protection mechanisms for children and older persons. Similarly, France and Senegal have signed a bilateral cooperation agreement that will provide Senegal with technical assistance in implementing programmes in the areas of health, social protection and advocacy for older persons. Japan, the United Kingdom and Norway are providing technical and financial support to Serbia to advance its social care system and assist in the construction of day centres for older persons. In terms of South-South cooperation, representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka gathered in 2008 to discuss training and best practices in geriatric care, to explore research and development and to provide for the psychological, social and economic needs of older persons.

34. A number of Governments have coordinated their efforts with non-governmental organizations working on behalf of older persons. For example, the Government of Cambodia is collaborating with HelpAge International to improve the health and income security of older Cambodians. Programmes include organizing associations and clubs for older persons, including in the context of the development process of the community, and distributing loans for the purchase of farming material and food. In Kyrgyzstan, the Government is partnering with HelpAge International, the Institution-Building Partnership Programme within the framework of the European Commission Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States programme and the Babushka Adoption Foundation to implement a new project to help realize the rights of older persons through round-table discussions, press conferences, newsletters and the engagement of local and community politicians in the programme.

35. As a sign of their support for the work of organizations that represent older persons, Governments in developing countries have been giving them financial assistance. For example, in Morocco, the National Strategy for Older Persons allows the Government to financially support civil society organizations that create intergenerational programmes and provide training for persons caring for older persons. In Bangladesh, the Ministry of Social Welfare has given 100 million taka to the Elderly Citizen Welfare Association so that it can continue working on projects that benefit older persons. In Costa Rica, the Government provides financial assistance to non-profit organizations that care for older persons. Similarly, Nicaragua provides support to non-profit organizations that care for older persons in rural areas.

36. Governments often work with organizations that represent older persons to provide services to older persons in need. For example, the Government of China is working with civil society organizations by providing financial support for the construction of activity centres for older persons. In India, the Government and civil society organizations have worked together to provide microcredit loans and health care for older persons. In Cuba, local governments and non-governmental organizations have coordinated programmes and provided support to families and communities caring for older persons.

C. Empowering older persons and promoting their rights

37. In order to create a society for all ages, it is important to promote and protect the rights of older persons as well as facilitate their integration and participation. The increased participation of older persons in economic, political and social life provides for their well-being and benefits their communities. Ensuring access to basic rights and ensuring the participation of older persons in decisions that affect them can also contribute to their empowerment.

Human rights of older persons

38. Around the world, countries have been implementing policies, amending constitutions, adopting legislation, developing programmes and establishing national policies on ageing that incorporate the human rights concerns of older persons.[6]

[6] For a more detailed discussion of the human rights of older persons, see A/65/157.

39. On the legislative front, there have been several efforts to bolster the human rights of older persons, including through constitutional provisions. For example, in 2010 Kenya adopted a new Constitution, which contains provisions on the responsibilities of all Government and public officials in addressing issues relating to the older population. The Constitution also contains a special section on the rights of older persons. The new Constitutions of the Dominican Republic (2010), the Plurinational State of Bolivia (2009) and Ecuador (2008) all contain clauses against age discrimination. The Ecuadorian Constitution also includes extensive coverage and recognition of the human rights of older persons, giving them the right to gain access to specialized care; the right to preferential and humanitarian assistance in case of arbitrary displacement; the right to benefit from special protective measures and protection against elder abuse; social protection; and the right to participation and environmental protection and safety. In 2008, an amendment to the Constitution of Brazil gave older persons priority in receiving social assistance payments from the Government.

40. Other legislative initiatives address such specific issues as patient protection, financial security, gender equality in benefit qualification and gender discrimination. In 2010, the Government of the United States adopted the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which strengthens the geriatric workforce and the coordination of care in health systems, supports in-home care, prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage, expands the coverage of drugs and closes the drug coverage gap. The United States also adopted the Elder Justice Act, which addresses elder abuse through the establishment of an Elder Justice Coordinating Council, the provision of funds for the prevention, detection and reporting of elder abuse and the improvement of staffing in long-term care services. In 2009, Uganda issued its national policy for older persons, which is a rights-based document, under the theme of "Ageing with security and dignity".

41. Given the prevalence of gender discrimination, in particular against older women, countries have adopted legislation to end gender bias in programmes and practices. Gender discrimination can manifest itself in many ways, including in the workforce and in terms of access to health care and educational opportunities. The United Kingdom adopted the Equality Act 2010, which prevents age discrimination in the provision of public services and health care as well as requiring gender pay and employment equality publishing. Likewise, in 2010 Kazakhstan enacted a law on equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women, which prohibits all forms of discrimination based on gender and is intended to strengthen the implementation of international commitments to advancing gender equality. In South Africa, the Social Assistance Amendment Act of 2008 equalized the age of receipt at 60 for older men and women who qualify for the older persons grant, which is a non-contributory pension given to poor older persons. The age of qualification had been 63 for men and 60 for women.

III. Highlighting key issues related to ageing

42. Although there are many facets to ageing, elder abuse and caregiving are two issues that cut across all levels of development and have an impact at all levels of society. They are also cross-cutting in nature in that they encompass aspects of capacity-building, awareness-raising and empowerment and participation. Elder abuse and neglect have slowly been gaining attention among policymakers,

researchers and law enforcement officials. In response, Member States have strengthened laws and developed initiatives to increase awareness about elder abuse and neglect among the general population, including older persons. Similarly, a greater focus is being placed on caregiving, in terms of both the growing demand for such services as the population ages and the contributions that carers, in particular unpaid family members, make to social and economic development. In addition to the training provided to formal and informal caregivers mentioned above, Member States have also developed policies to address the concerns of caregivers, including the provision of respite care, counselling and pension credits for caregivers.

A. Neglect, abuse and violence

43. Elder abuse cuts across all social, economic and national borders, with most victims of elder abuse being women, while most perpetrators of abuse are family members, including spouses, adult children, siblings and grandchildren. A recent study conducted in Spain indicated that older women are more likely to be victims of emotional, financial or sexual abuse, while older men are more likely to be abandoned or neglected.[7] Since it is often difficult to ascertain whether an older person is being abused, doctors, nurses, social workers and other health-care professionals are the first line of defence in detecting and preventing elder abuse. Yet health-care professionals have difficulty in doing so, because no standard global measure or guidelines for elder abuse detection currently exist. Measures used to detect elder abuse have to be relevant to the culture and language of the older person.

44. Raising awareness about elder abuse by civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and United Nations entities has led Governments to strengthen and clarify legislation, build up their human-resource capacity and find funding to protect older persons against abuse. Some countries have identified neglect and abandonment by family members and institutions as a form of abuse. The programmes and policies referred to below reflect the work that Governments have done to combat elder abuse in their countries.

45. The Governments of Canada, New Zealand, Slovenia and the United States have begun new campaigns to raise awareness about elder abuse, publicizing them on the Internet and on television and in movie theatres and print advertisements. In addition, they are working with community-based organizations, national and professional organizations and their ministries to increase awareness about elder abuse. Similarly, Belize, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have all launched public campaigns intended to educate the general public about elder abuse.

46. In Brazil, the plan of action on violence against older persons (2007-2012) includes programmes for the prevention and reporting of elder abuse and for the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of such abuse. The plan of action also includes referral centres specializing in social assistance. In Costa Rica, a new programme, entitled "Constructing solidarity", will finance projects that treat and

[7] "Elder abuse in the family in Spain, 2008", available at http://www.abuel.org/docs/11_spainfamily.pdf.

rehabilitate persons who have been abused. In Peru, the national programme against domestic violence and sexual abuse of the Ministry for Women and Social Development includes policies to combat violence against older persons.

47. In Argentina, Chile, India and Mexico, laws against elder abuse have been strengthened. For example, in Argentina, a new programme added to the elder abuse law allows older persons to report cases of abuse. The new programme will direct the victim to organizations that provide psychological and legal services. In Mexico, the Government is creating a new federal agency that will specialize in helping victims of elder abuse. In Chile, the Domestic Violence Act strengthens laws that deal with domestic violence by taking into account the needs of older persons. The tougher law against elder abuse would guarantee that anyone convicted of abusing an older person, including abandonment by family, would face prison time and financial penalties, be barred from seeing the victim and be required to attend therapy sessions. Similarly, in India, the law states that adult children are to be punished if they abandon, neglect or abuse an older adult.

48. In the Dominican Republic, the Attorney General and the National Council on Older Persons have created a special unit dedicated to addressing elder abuse cases. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the National Institute for Social Services provides legal services at no cost for victims of abuse. In Honduras, the Attorney General responsible for consumer protection and older persons addresses cases of elder abuse. In El Salvador, the Government has created a monitoring system for elder abuse cases.

B. Caregiving and carers

49. Modernization, rural-urban migration and low fertility rates have changed the way in which older persons and their families interact with and care for one another. Despite those changes, the majority of older persons in developing countries continue to live with their families. Generally, older persons prefer to "age in place", cared for at home by a family member, which provides comfort. Caregiving can be a rewarding experience; it can unite generations and strengthen the family. However, caregiving can also be very stressful, especially when the older person is confined to bed, is very frail or has a mental illness such as dementia. Depending on the mental and physical condition of the older person, a caregiver may not have time for himself/herself or be able to work or earn sufficient income or pension credits. Research has suggested the stress experienced in caregiving can sometimes lead to elder abuse.

50. Most developed countries have implemented policies that provide for respite care for caregivers, informational seminars on caregiving, home health aids and, in some cases, a monthly stipend. For example, the Government of Australia introduced the Carer Recognition Bill 2010, which sets out a broad and comprehensive definition of a carer and provides for a pension supplement for each person to whom a carer provides care, annual payments, funding for specialist disability services, supported accommodation, in-home care and respite care, and training and skills development for carers.[8] In the United Kingdom, the Government

[8] Available at http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/uploads/Carers%20Australia/20100317_speech%20Carer%20Recognition%20Bill.pdf.

is launching the National Care Service, which is based on the principle of shared social insurance funded by universal contributions, and all persons in need of care will receive it at no cost. In Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Zealand and Singapore, caregivers are entitled to support services, such as counselling and respite services.

51. Some developing countries have also introduced policies to support caregivers. For example, in the Russian Federation, during the "Year of the Family" in 2008, the Government promised to increase the monthly allowance for those caring for older persons. In Thailand, volunteer caregivers take older persons to health clinics and check that regular medication is provided at home. The initiative has been launched nationwide, with funding from the Government to provide a minimum stipend for volunteers to cover fuel and other expenses. In the Dominican Republic, the Solidarity Programme provides economic support for families that care for older persons. In Argentina, the objective of the national programme of domestic caregivers is to promote independence and assist older persons to "age in place".

52. Institutionalized care is available in most Member States, but various factors, including health and safety regulations and the need for adequate care by staff, a well-trained health-care workforce and appropriate financing, pose challenges to the provision of long-term care. To address those challenges, the Government of the Republic of Korea, adopted the Long-term Care Insurance for Older Persons Act 2008. The new law provides coverage for long-term care for persons aged 65 and older. Under the system, older persons will be entitled to receive nursing care and assistance with bathing and housework. Financing for the new programme will include Government subsidies, co-payment by older persons and contributions to health insurance plans by the working population.

53. In order to supplement care for older persons, countries have created community care centres and nutrition and feeding programmes. For example, in Guatemala, community kitchens provide meals for older persons living alone in rural and urban areas. In Colombia, the Institute for Family Welfare has implemented a national meal programme for older persons. In Ecuador, the "Eat well Ecuador" programme is a new Government strategy aimed at reducing hunger among older persons by providing them with meals. Similarly, in Chile, the Ministry of Health has created a programme under which older persons are provided with meals.

54. It is important to bear in mind that older persons are not only recipients of care, but also providers of care to grandchildren or other family members, in some cases reciprocating for the care provided to them by their adult children. Older women, in particular, are often called upon to provide care when the parent of the grandchild lives in another country, is in prison or has passed away. In sub-Saharan Africa and Thailand there has been increasing recognition of the care that grandparents provide to children who have been orphaned as a result of AIDS; such care includes sharing their pension with their grandchildren to pay for school tuition and fees and providing meals and medical care. However, the care that older persons provide to grandchildren, adult children and other relatives is not fully recognized and is seldom reflected in national or regional data.

IV. International cooperation in the implementation process

55. Notwithstanding the above-mentioned examples highlighting national progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in many countries where the political will exists to address population ageing and the situation of older persons, the capacity to implement policies remains a challenge. Conflicting responsibilities among ministries regarding ageing policies and funding for ageing programmes, social attitudes, lack of data and research on older persons and other health and political priorities frequently overwhelm countries so that they cannot truly implement ageing policies in their national agendas. Acknowledging the urgent need to develop sound, evidence-based policies that protect older persons, the international community has come forward to provide some assistance.

56. The Secretariat of the United Nations and the regional commissions, agencies, funds and programmes have worked with Member States to build capacity, enact policies and legislation, raise awareness, provide training, strengthen research and data collection and offer a plethora of resources and guidelines to advance the implementation of the Madrid Plan. Those entities facilitate discussions among all stakeholders, including older persons and Government representatives, aimed at developing national policies on ageing, creating stronger and enforceable national development plans, empowering older persons and raising awareness of population ageing among all members of society. Highlights of the efforts made by those entities are described below.

57. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, convened an expert group meeting on the theme "Human rights of older persons" in Geneva on 25 and 26 May 2010. One of the meeting's objectives was to document general trends in national legislation and policy approaches to the human rights of older people. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provided support for ageing-related activities through the provision of advisory services, as well as support for national research and data-collection efforts in Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan. Furthermore, the Division organized training workshops in Armenia, Belarus, Cameroon, Malta and the Russian Federation during the reporting period. Major areas of activity included awareness-raising, needs assessments and capacity-building for evidence-based policy development.

58. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), together with Governments of the region, organized a series of conferences on the human rights of older persons. In 2008, ECLAC and the Government of Brazil organized a conference on human rights as a follow-up to the Brasilia Declaration adopted at the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference was attended by members of civil society and international non-governmental organizations and representatives of 13 Member States. In 2009, ECLAC, the Pan American Health Organization and the Government of Argentina organized a conference on the human rights of older persons with the objective of formulating language and a text for a convention on the rights of older persons. A third conference on the human rights of older persons, organized by ECLAC, the Government of Chile and the Pan American Health Organization and supported by other organizations, was held late in 2009.

Representatives of 25 countries, including the Caribbean States, attended the conference.

59. The Economic Commission for Europe is developing a road map for mainstreaming ageing in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova, which translates internationally agreed policy frameworks on ageing into concrete policy action at the country level. In Armenia, the road map was developed through participatory consultations with all stakeholders, including Government officials, the private sector, trade unions, civil society, academia, older persons and international organizations. The strategy includes capacity-building elements, such as institutional mechanisms, research and data collection and human resource development.

60. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been instrumental in assisting Governments in building their national capacity on ageing, improving information and data collection relating to older persons and raising awareness of issues related to ageing and older persons. Specifically, UNFPA has engaged with Governments in all regions of the world to develop their national policies and legislation on ageing. In the Arab region, UNFPA has been working with Egypt, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic to develop a national policy on ageing and provide technical assistance to assess and review the legislative framework related to older persons. In the Asian region, UNFPA is assisting China, India, Mongolia and Myanmar in the revision of laws regarding older persons, strengthening national programmes for older persons, providing technical support and drafting national plans of action on ageing. In the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, UNFPA is supporting the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Colombia and Nicaragua in their efforts to prepare national policy documents on ageing. In the African region, it is assisting Senegal and Togo in integrating and providing technical and financial support towards the development of a national policy and a plan of action on ageing. In the Eastern European and Central Asian region, the Programme has been supporting the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan in their efforts to develop policies and national plans that address the challenges of an ageing population as well as improve existing legislation and policies.

61. UNFPA is actively working to improve information and data collection on older persons, including through the use of surveys to assist in policymaking on ageing issues. It has assisted the Governments of Armenia and Pakistan, as well as other Governments in the Eastern European and Central Asian region, to design and conduct national household surveys on the conditions of older persons, including their health status. Furthermore, in Lebanon UNFPA is working with the Centre for Studies on Ageing to develop policy briefs on the situation of older persons, caregivers and pension systems, with the purpose of creating a database to serve as a repository of national and regional studies on older persons. In Azerbaijan, UNFPA helped to conduct research on the socio-economic problems associated with ageing and intergenerational relations. In Colombia, El Salvador and Peru, the Programme has sponsored studies on the older population with regard to social security, pensions, caregiving networks and the economic contributions made by older persons to their households.

62. In order to assist in awareness-raising efforts, UNFPA is supporting the proliferation of publications dealing with ageing issues, encouraging advocacy efforts and organizing workshops to improve understanding of population ageing. In

Cambodia, it is working in collaboration with the Government and other groups to produce national guidelines on older persons' associations, as well as training materials. In Ukraine, the Programme has supported the establishment of a gerontological information and counselling centre at the Institute of Gerontology and provided the first translation and publication of the Madrid Plan in Ukrainian. In the Republic of Moldova and Thailand, UNFPA has conducted policy advocacy and awareness-raising on social protection schemes, including potential reforms to pension plans. In Tunisia, it supported the organization of an international workshop on population ageing and its impact on the health and social sectors, while in Malaysia, it supports the University of the Third Age programme for older persons so as to utilize the potential and experience of older persons for national development. In Chile, UNFPA supported advocacy activities regarding the inclusion of older persons through an observatory on ageing.

63. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNFPA, the Government of the United Kingdom and HelpAge International have been working with the Government of Nepal to support policies and programmes for older persons. As a result of that collaborative effort, non-governmental organizations were provided with training in how to work with older persons, activities were organized in celebration of the International Day of Older Persons, assistance was provided for the drafting of the Senior Citizens Act and a health and income generating project in rural areas was piloted.[9]

64. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is assisting local governments in Croatia and Mongolia in taking into account the needs of older persons in their local development projects. During local consultation meetings, older persons are given an opportunity to express their ideas on improving public utility services, street lighting, water and sanitation and women's education. In Palestine, UNDP has established an economic empowerment project which considers the specific needs of older persons.

65. The United Nations Children's Fund is working with the Government of Malawi to reduce extreme poverty in households by piloting a new social cash transfer programme aimed at reducing hunger and starvation. According to a 2009 report by the Fund, when the cash transfers go to households with older persons, they result in more children returning to school and a greater number of households creating small businesses as a way to generate income.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

66. When viewed from the perspective of the strategic implementation framework, it is evident that countries have made significant achievements in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing over the past two years. The examples highlighted above demonstrate advances in national capacity-building and efforts to raise awareness of issues related to ageing and the empowerment of older persons and the promotion of their rights. Nevertheless, the implementation,

[9] Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, "Elderly People in Nepal: what happened after MIPAA, 2002?", paper prepared for the High-level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Macao, China, 9-11 October 2007, available at http://www.unescap.org/esid/psis/meetings/AgeingMipaa2007/NEPAN.pdf.

enforcement and monitoring of those initiatives have not been universal. The institutional infrastructure remains inadequate in many developing countries, which are hampered by limited financial and human resource capacity and political will, insufficient research and data on older persons and limited applicability of development programmes to the older population. In developed countries, where the impact of the global financial and economic crises has been particularly severe, Governments may resort to cutting back on social services, including those that benefit older persons. Given those realities, which are compounded by the rapid acceleration in the growth of the older population throughout the world, all countries will need to invest greater efforts if they are to successfully meet their priorities in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action towards the end of its first decade in 2012.

67. With a view to advancing national priorities on ageing in line with the policy approaches identified in the strategic implementation framework, the General Assembly may wish to recommend that Member States:

(a) Identify key priority areas for the remainder of the first decade of implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action, including empowering older persons and promoting their rights, raising awareness of issues related to ageing and building national capacities on ageing;

(b) Ensure that the Madrid Plan of Action forms an integral part of the development agenda by giving ageing issues prominence in national development plans;

(c) Forge stronger partnerships with civil society groups, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations and the private sector, in an effort to help build capacity on ageing-related issues;

(d) Invest greater efforts in improving research on and analysis of the situation of older persons, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age, with a view to better informing and monitoring policies on ageing.

68. The General Assembly may wish to invite the United Nations system to strengthen its capacity to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of the newly redesigned two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The disarmament website (www.un.org/disarmament) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. Websites for specific meetings and conferences are being further developed. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report also gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

* A/65/150.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Information resources	4
	A. Publication programme	4
	B. Website	6
	C. Exhibitions	7
III.	Information activities	7
	A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities	7
	B. Briefings	9
	C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament	9
IV.	Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations	10
V.	Activities of the Department of Public Information	10
	A. Public information campaigns	10
	B. Internet, press coverage, television and radio	12
	C. United Nations information centres, services and offices	13
	D. Civil society and non-governmental organizations	14
	E. Printed materials	15
	F. Exhibitions	16
	G. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace	16
	H. Public affairs	16
VI.	Conclusions	17
Annex		
	Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2009	18

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/81, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. In accordance with the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/643), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued his advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society. The High Representative has thus continued to increase his interaction with the media, think-tank organizations, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, high priority was accorded to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 4-15 May 2009) as well as to the Review Conference itself (New York, 3-28 May 2010), entailing an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.

5. In the field of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 14-18 June 2010). Again, the Office for Disarmament Affairs was required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.

6. The importance of the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to grow, as evidenced by the substantial amount of time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Review Conference itself and the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, as well as for specific topics such as efforts to achieve an arms trade treaty.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 63/70, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the

Assembly at its sixty-fifth session (A/65/160). These two reports should be read in conjunction.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Office's three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres provide detailed information about their activities.[1]

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the Office's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities has been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session (A/65/151).

10. In accordance with the standing request of the General Assembly asking the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis, accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports transmitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Assembly (A/64/261 and A/65/177).

11. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2009 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to the present report.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the *Yearbook* is issued in a print run of more than 4,000 copies and distributed worldwide to United Nations libraries, as well as to its depositary library system, United Nations information centres, all permanent missions in New York and Geneva (in multiple copies), the offices of the regional commissions and parliamentary libraries. It is sold in United Nations bookshops to subscribers and non-subscribers, with several hundred copies sold of each edition. An additional copy is distributed to each delegation participating in the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, the *Yearbook* is distributed to

[1] The reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/65/139) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/65/120) have been submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The report of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa will be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

approximately 1,300 research institutes, organizations and individuals, mainly in the developing world.

13. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format which is easily accessible on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The *e-Yearbook* is produced in both HTML and PDF format and features full-text search, index search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

14. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from panels and seminars sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The publication is disseminated free of charge and posted on the Office's website. The following have been issued in the period under review:

- *Occasional Paper* No. 14, February 2009, "Conflict of Interests: Children and Guns in Zones of Instability", based on a panel discussion of 15 July 2008 organized jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and the Government of Belgium.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 15, March 2009, "Developing a Biological Incident Database", based on a 23 October 2008 panel discussion organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 16, April 2009, "Assessing the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms", was, as an exception to the normal Office for Disarmament Affairs Occasional Papers series, a specific contribution prepared by the Office for Disarmament Affairs to the 2009 Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and was also intended to be of benefit to those concerned with these matters in Government, civil society and the academic community.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 17, October 2009, "Promoting the Universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons", was based on a joint project between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the European Union entailing holding six regional seminars during 2008. A total of 69 States, the majority of which were non-State parties to the Convention, and five regional organizations participated in the seminars.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 18, January 2010, "Ways to Strengthen the Field of Verification", based on presentations made to members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in February 2009 by James Acton, Associate in the Non-Proliferation Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Andreas Persbo, Acting Executive Director of the Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre.

- *Occasional Paper* No. 19, June 2010, "Cyber Warfare and Its Impact on International Security", based on a presentation made to members of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in February 2009 by James Lewis of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

15. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued the production of its quarterly e-publication "Disarmament Update", which is aimed at

the interested members of the public and highlights recent events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums, linking the reader to fuller material and documents already available on the website of the Office and other related websites.

16. In October 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "1540 Committee: Selected United Nations Documents" as a reference tool for participants in a series of ongoing regional workshops on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The booklet was also designed to provide diplomats and other Government officials, regional and subregional bodies, the United Nations system, specialized non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutes, educators and students and the general public with an easy-to-use compendium of key documents, including Security Council reports and resolutions relevant to the subject. An electronic version of the booklet is also available online.

17. In September 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "Disarmament — A Basic Guide" in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security pursuant to the purposes of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. The guide aims to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action, and support for it, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. While intended for the general reader, it is also useful for the disarmament educator or trainer. It is available in both English and Spanish and electronic versions are available online.

B. Website

18. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website.

19. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues, rather than based on the structure of the Office. The priorities of the Office determine its core content. Its front page provides the latest disarmament-related United Nations press releases, statements of the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, publications, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament, relevant background documentation and links to significant United Nations partners. Its substantive pages give background information on the topic being explored and store a wealth of information on recent and past major disarmament-related conferences. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all official United Nations languages is posted on the website.

20. The Office continuously monitors the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of hits and visitors, peak hours and the days the website is accessed are kept monthly. Regular monitoring has improved the Office's understanding of the kind of information that is being sought and who is seeking it.

21. The number of visitors to the site has more than doubled since the previous report of July 2008 (A/63/162) with more than 54,900 unique visitors using the site every six months. The total number of sessions (i.e., the number of times individuals visit the site) has also increased by a factor of 80 per cent. The average time individual users spent on the website has shown a decrease of 6 per cent owing to the new and improved navigation following the redesign of the website in 2008,

which made the site more user-friendly. The top users of the website, measured by time spent, are Government agencies (mainly ministries of foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The two most visited sections of the site are the database of General Assembly resolutions and decisions on disarmament and the database on the status and texts of disarmament-related treaties.

22. Expanding the multilingual version of the Office for Disarmament Affairs website continues to be a major challenge because of a lack of financial resources. Only when documentation exists in all official United Nations languages is the Office able to post it quickly and easily. A major objective of the Office for the website will be to have its home page content and all second-tier pages made available in all official United Nations languages.

C. Exhibitions

23. Exhibitions play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference or other topics through the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. Such exhibitions have become an expected fixture of United Nations conferences (see para. 64 below in the Department of Public Information section of this report, which provides details of those for which the Office provided substantive support).

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

24. With support from the Government of Japan, the twentieth United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues took place in Saitama City, Japan, from 27 to 29 August 2008. The Conference, with the overall theme of "Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy: trends and challenges", addressed several critical issues in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation, such as challenges to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and initiatives to overcome them; nuclear renaissance and nuclear non-proliferation; security in East Asia and arms control; and cooperation with civil society. The twenty-first United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues took place in Niigata, Japan, from 26 to 28 August 2009. The conference addressed topics ranging from the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the outlook for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the role of the media and civil society in disarmament. The gathering urged nations of the world to take major steps towards creating a world without nuclear weapons and to identify ways to translate the vision of a nuclear-weapon-free world into concrete actions.

25. With the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the seventh United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 24 to 26 November 2008. The Conference, with the overall theme of "Nuclear renaissance and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: reinforcing the three pillars of the NPT", addressed several critical issues in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, such as revitalizing the Treaty process, nuclear renaissance and a

multilateral assurance mechanism for nuclear fuel supply, challenges and responses to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, and non-proliferation challenges in north-east Asia. The eighth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, from 16 to 18 November 2009. With the overall theme, "Prospects for a new era of progress on disarmament and non-proliferation", the Conference addressed several critical issues in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, such as actions toward a nuclear-weapon-free world; challenges and possible solutions to nuclear non-proliferation; promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and non-proliferation challenges in north-east Asia.

26. The 2008 and 2009 sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly attracted an unusually large number of side events organized separately and jointly by Permanent Missions to the United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

27. A major gathering was organized by the EastWest Institute and the Office for Disarmament Affairs during which the Secretary-General unveiled his five-point plan for nuclear disarmament on 24 October 2008 (see SG/SM/11881). Other events in 2008 included a workshop on depleted uranium, meetings to discuss the path to abolishing nuclear weapons, discussions on outer space security, promoting transparency in arms transfers through the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, as well as cluster munitions and small arms. Also of note, on 23 October 2008, the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, organized a panel to present the "Development of a biological incident database".

28. In connection with the First Committee of the General Assembly in 2009, side events included the launch of an Office for Disarmament Affairs booklet on "Promoting the Universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons", which was based on a joint Office for Disarmament Affairs-European Union project. Other events included a movie screening of "The Silent Army" followed by a panel discussion on child soldiers and small arms organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

29. Youth has been a focus of outreach activities by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. On 9 June 2009, an event was held at United Nations Headquarters entitled "Disarm the World with Knowledge", organized by the Co-Chair of the DPI/NGO Youth Committee. In addition to the Office for Disarmament Affairs, other co-sponsors of the event included the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information and the United Nations University. Young professionals, students and faculty from 14 academic institutions attended, and numerous other students from around the world were able to participate via live webcast.

30. A similar seminar was held on 23 June 2009 for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean at the United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City with the Department of Public Information/NGO Youth Subcommittee. More than 100 students from various universities in Mexico City participated, as did officials from the Foreign Ministry of Mexico. Students from different cities of Mexico and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were also able to take part through a webcast of the seminar. A video link was also created with the United Nations

Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is based in Lima. On 2 June 2010, a similar event was held in Mexico City with live video participation from the staff of the Regional Centre.

B. Briefings

31. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information, or requests received directly from individual institutions, staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York undertook between 35 and 40 briefing engagements per year over the reporting period dedicated to education and training activities for the benefit of some 2,250 external participants from: (a) student visitors in the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Associations members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs. The number of participants represents a considerable increase of 50 per cent compared to the last reporting period.

32. Staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in numerous panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think tanks.

33. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and staff from the Office have participated in interviews with television, radio and print outlets. Attention has also been given to new media such as internet broadcasting and video messages both for specific meetings and for the Office for Disarmament Affairs website.

C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament

34. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for the activities of the Messengers of Peace and acts in cooperation with the substantive office (in this case the Office for Disarmament Affairs) for activities relating to disarmament issues. During the period under review, Michael Douglas made a number of contributions. In 2009, he joined the Secretary-General in promoting the "WMD-We Must Disarm" campaign and in posting 100 reasons to disarm nuclear weapons on the microblogging site, Twitter. In addition, he was a panellist at the "Voices of Experience" event, held in New York on 7 May 2009, conducted on the fringe of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference. He also made a presentation at the meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 2009, to promote the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

35. Mr. Douglas and the Secretary-General appeared together on 4 May 2010 and spoke at a ceremony launching the *Stop Nuclear Arms!* exhibition organized by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. On 5 May, Mr. Douglas and the Secretary-General also appeared together to open a screening of *Countdown to Zero*, a documentary about the escalating threat of global nuclear arms. Before the screening, which was a side event of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, Mr. Douglas made

remarks focusing on the media's role in reporting the dangers nuclear arms posed to the world.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

36. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain close contact with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field, and IANSA in connection with small arms and light weapons. A total of 1,155 representatives from 118 NGOs participated in the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (May 2010). In the area of small arms, 170 representatives from about 35 NGOs participated in the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (June 2010). A new system of online advance registration for NGOs for these types of meetings is being tested and will hopefully ease the burden on the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the NGOs, United Nations Security and the Pass Office alike.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

37. The Department of Public Information continues to help raise public awareness and understanding of the objectives and the work of the United Nations in the area of disarmament, arms control and related fields, including by promoting the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Public information campaigns

38. In 2009, the Department of Public Information, in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, launched a multi-platform campaign on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, using digital media platforms and traditional outreach methods. This was the first integrated digital campaign launched by the Department that used both traditional and new media to promote a strategic communications priority. It was launched in June with the slogan "WMD-We Must Disarm", and it culminated with the International Day of Peace on 21 September, during the same week in which a Security Council summit meeting on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation was held, along with the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, at United Nations Headquarters.

39. The campaign engaged citizens from around the world on the issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by asking them to submit their own "reasons to disarm" via the International Day of Peace website available in the six official United Nations languages. Results were shown to world leaders at the opening of the General Assembly in New York from 23 to 25 September. The campaign created dedicated pages on social networking and microblogging sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, to engage and build online communities dedicated to nuclear

disarmament and non-proliferation. Thousands from around the world joined the campaign platforms and signed the Secretary-General's online Declaration to support the cause. Each day, the campaign sent out a "reason to disarm" via Twitter, which was redistributed by those participating in the campaign, including the American actor Rainn Wilson to his over 1.3 million followers on Twitter, and also by the Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas. The first 10 messages via Twitter were sent out by the Secretary-General, who also launched the campaign in Latin America at the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in Mexico City. The campaign also included the launch of an online video competition via YouTube.

40. Twitter enabled the "WMD-We Must Disarm" campaign to reach some 1.2 million people, and provided them with access to a variety of material on disarmament and non-proliferation, in the form of video, photos and text. The campaign Facebook site attracted 7,700 members. All digital platforms were interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

41. The annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, which took place in Mexico City from 9 to 11 September 2009, was also devoted to disarmament. The Office for Disarmament Affairs played an important substantive part in the preparations and conduct of the Conference.

42. The Department of Public Information promoted the Secretary-General's proposals on disarmament and non-proliferation through an op-ed piece entitled "My Plan to Drop the Bomb", which was placed in at least 53 national newspapers and electronic media globally, and through other products and activities by United Nations information centres, non-governmental organizations and other partners (see relevant sections below).

43. Throughout the reporting period, the Department provided communications support to the United Nations meetings and conferences on disarmament-related matters. Most recently, the Department worked closely with the Office for Disarmament Affairs on targeted promotional efforts with regard to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, May 2010). The Department used various information and communications tools such as press releases, promotional materials including a press kit, featured radio and television stories and a dedicated website in six official languages, as well as outreach activities, to call attention to the importance of the Review Conference and to the critical issues placed on its agenda. Prior to the Conference, an op-ed of the Secretary-General entitled "Standing at Ground Zero" was prepared and published in the *International Herald Tribune*. Overall, the op-ed was placed in 23 media outlets in 19 countries. In addition, an op-ed related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, entitled "Nuclear Non-Proliferation Talks Symbolize Hope" written by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, was published in *The Huffington Post* (United States of America). The Department also participated in the publicity activities for a side event featuring a special screening of a documentary *Countdown to Zero* on 5 May 2010. The Secretary-General, United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, Academy Award-winning producer Lawrence Bender, and Participant Media's Jeff Skoll provided introductory remarks.

B. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

44. The Department has continued to raise global awareness of disarmament issues through its regular coverage of meetings of relevant United Nations bodies and by producing a wide range of news and feature programming on the Organization's activities across the full range of its news network.

45. Major events covered during the reporting period included: the Third and Fourth Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the 2008-2009 sessions of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva; the activities of the General Assembly and its First Committee; the 2009 Security Council summit meeting on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation; the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference; as well as major advocacy and outreach campaigns.

46. In print, the Department issued a total of 339 press releases in English and French, providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of intergovernmental meetings (228); statements, messages and appointments of the Secretary-General (91); and press conferences (20).

47. On the Internet, the United Nations News Centre produced regular news stories and features in all official languages, spotlighting significant disarmament news and campaigns throughout the reporting period, including coverage of events such as the biennial meetings on small arms, actions and decisions of the Security Council, statements of the Secretary-General and developments at the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in Mexico City.

48. The Department's Web Services Section created and maintained, in the six official languages, the website of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. It also provided scanning and Internet-posting for Conference statements and NGO presentations. The Department of Public Information also created the website for the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in English, with versions in the other five languages pending. The Department also supported a host of additional disarmament-related Internet initiatives with United Nations partners.

49. United Nations Radio's programming in the six official languages as well as Kiswahili and Portuguese, focused on many dimensions of the United Nations messages on disarmament, including those relating to conventional weapons, small arms, the impact of landmines in post-conflict areas, the work of civil society to promote disarmament, the role of parliamentarians in disarmament and programming on the Secretary-General's visit in April 2010 to the former Soviet nuclear weapons test site at Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan. In addition, United Nations Radio featured world figures and celebrity advocates for disarmament, including Mikhail Gorbachev, who lectured at the United Nations on nuclear disarmament; actor Michael Douglas, who is a United Nations Messenger of Peace with a disarmament portfolio; and model Christie Brinkley, who participated in a panel discussion on disarmament in her capacity as a board member of the United States-based Global Security Institute. Throughout the reporting period, United Nations Radio aired disarmament-related interviews with United Nations officials as well as government representatives.

50. In addition to regular coverage of Headquarters-based events, from press conferences to meetings of the Security Council, United Nations Photo produced a special Internet photo gallery on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation during the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

51. The Department's Television Section continued to produce news stories, feature programming and packages for broadcasters on disarmament. For example, the television magazine programme "21st Century" and the short feature programme "UN in Action" spotlighted disarmament work ranging from demining dogs in southern Sudan to a close-up look at the arms trade to a historical overview of the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). A wealth of material was produced to support awareness of the developments at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, including footage from across the United Nations system, as well as daily highlights cut from breaking news coverage at Headquarters featuring press stake-outs and press conferences.

52. Raw footage packages for broadcasters were prepared on a range of disarmament subjects, from the Secretary-General speaking to an extraordinary session of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008 to creative disarmament programmes in Haiti and Rwanda.

53. In addition, throughout the reporting period, video clips were posted on the Internet for live and on-demand viewing on disarmament-related matters. During the reporting period, 362 video clips and 70 hours of live webcast coverage were posted for public access on news and developments, including activities of the Security Council and special events such as the joint Office for Disarmament Affairs and Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs presentation, and panel discussions organized by civil society partners in conjunction with the work of the Organization.

C. United Nations information centres, services and offices

54. The Department of Public Information network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out various public information activities in the field of disarmament through media outreach, including placement of op-ed pieces on nuclear disarmament, small arms and cluster munitions; through educational outreach efforts, including model United Nations programmes, special events and videoconferences; through the production and dissemination of information materials in local languages; and through outreach to the general public, including seminars, lectures, conferences and exhibitions.

55. As mentioned above (see para. 42), the Secretary-General's op-ed piece entitled "My Plan to Drop the Bomb" was placed in at least 53 national newspapers and electronic media, including *The South China Morning Post* in China, *The Daily News* in Egypt, *The Deccan Herald* in India, eight news outlets in the Islamic Republic of Iran, *The Japan Times* in Japan, *The Daily Star* in Lebanon, *The Frontier Post* in Pakistan, *The Daily News* in Sri Lanka, *Referans* and *Today's Zaman* in Turkey, *The St. Petersburg Times* and *The Moscow Times* in the Russian Federation, *The Nation* in Thailand, *The International Courier* in Ukraine, *The Guardian* and *The Scotsman* in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and *The Washington Times* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in the United States of America. The op-ed by the Under-Secretary-General for

Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator on cluster ammunitions was placed in a number of national newspapers, including *Eleftherotypia* in Greece and *Excelsior* in Mexico, and widely disseminated through the websites, press releases and newsletters of the information centres.

56. The Department of Public Information/NGO Conference in Mexico City in September 2009 entitled "For peace and development: disarm now!" presented a good opportunity to disseminate United Nations messages on disarmament among the NGO community in Latin America and the Caribbean. The United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City organized a small arms exhibit and an exhibit on child soldiers at the Conference site. A number of information centres both in and outside of the region supported the Department of Public Information/NGO Conference and some of them organized seminars and workshops with their national NGOs to disseminate information on the work of the United Nations on disarmament in conjunction with the Conference. Model United Nations programmes supported by the information centres in various countries, including Colombia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Paraguay and South Africa, took up disarmament as one of the main subject areas for debate in 2009. The theme of the Model United Nations in Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2009 was nuclear disarmament. The United Nations Information Service in Vienna regularly organized lecture programmes on IAEA and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for visiting teachers from Germany, for students from Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and other countries, as well as for young diplomats, politicians and military officers from the region throughout the reporting period.

57. Other special events organized by the information centres included the exhibition of the Origami Collection in the Armenian-Japanese "Peace Lantern" project in Yerevan in November 2008 and a commemorative event on the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Vienna in August 2009. The Information Centre in Tokyo provided support to the annual United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues organized jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Government of Japan, in Saitama City in August 2008. The Information Centre in Kathmandu organized a press conference during the conference on illicit small arms issues organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific in Kathmandu in June 2009. The Information Centre in Tehran translated excerpts of the Secretary-General's message on Remembrance Day for All Victims of Chemical Warfare into Persian and issued a press release on it in August 2009. The Information Centre in Ouagadougou, in cooperation with the Government of Burkina Faso, organized an annual media seminar on the illicit small arms trade in July 2008 and 2009. It also produced a 45-minute television programme on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation with the national broadcaster in September 2009. The Information Centre in Bujumbura, working with the national broadcaster, produced a number of programmes relating to small arms, nuclear security and other disarmament issues throughout the reporting period.

D. Civil society and non-governmental organizations

58. Disarmament and related issues were predominant topics at the sixty-second annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, on the theme "For

peace and development: disarm now!", hosted by the Government of Mexico in September 2009. Some 1,300 participants, representing 55 countries and 340 non-governmental organizations, exchanged ideas, experiences and lessons on peace, disarmament and development. The Conference underscored the interrelationships between issues such as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and conventional arms regulation, as well as human development and global security.

59. The Secretary-General's attendance at the Conference gave great prominence to the event, while demonstrating to the non-governmental community that their aspirations were shared by the United Nations leadership.

60. The Conference resulted in a Declaration entitled "Disarming for Peace and Development", which was presented to the Secretary-General and to the incumbent and former Presidents of the General Assembly and to the Security Council. For the first time in the history of the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations, the Declaration was circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2009/477, annex) in the context of its summit-level meeting on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation held in September 2009.

61. During the reporting period, the Department continued its regular briefing programme for the representatives of the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information. Briefings and workshops were held on: "Disarming for Peace and Development: The Need to Move Forward"; "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!"; "Disarmament: Fresh Answers to Old Questions"; and "Disarmament Issues and the UN".

62. The Department has continued to engage young people worldwide on disarmament and related issues. In September 2009, more than 1,000 students and teachers participated in the observance of the International Day of Peace held at Headquarters on the theme "Disarm now for a better world". More than 60 schools and non-governmental organizations from the United States attended, and many more worldwide followed the proceedings via a live webcast, addressing issues such as the illicit trade in small arms and nuclear disarmament. Students from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and the Sudan participated by videoconference, assisted by the United Nations peacekeeping missions in those countries. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs addressed the event, in which the United Nations Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall also participated.

E. Printed materials

63. The issues of disarmament and arms control have continued to be covered extensively in publications of the Department of Public Information such as *The Yearbook of the United Nations* and *The United Nations Today* (formerly *Basic Facts about the United Nations*). In August 2009, the Department published a double edition of the *UN Chronicle* magazine featuring a series of articles on disarmament-related topics written by a variety of experts. The edition coincided with the 2009 Department of Public Information/NGO Conference.

F. Exhibitions

64. Public exhibitions play an important rôle in promoting advocacy and providing information on United Nations priority issues, reaching a large number of visitors to United Nations Headquarters. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information organized a number of exhibitions related to disarmament in the public areas of the United Nations complex, including "Against Nuclear Arms", jointly sponsored by the Governments of Japan and Kazakhstan, and the "IMPACT! Living with Mines and Cluster Munitions" exhibit.

65. Most recently, in May-June 2010, the Department and the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized a major joint exhibition entitled "Stop Nuclear Arms!" in conjunction with the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. The exhibition consisted of two parts: "Putting an End to Nuclear Explosions", a multimedia display developed by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and "A Message to the World from Hiroshima and Nagasaki", sponsored by the Government of Japan, with the support of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization (Nihon Hidankyo) from the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

66. In addition, the permanent disarmament exhibition on the United Nations guided tour route in the General Assembly building continued to attract visitors. The Secretary-General's "WMD-We Must Disarm" campaign was incorporated in the exhibition gallery in 2009, and visitors were encouraged to participate by signing statements on "Why we must disarm" on a huge paper scroll in the gallery as well as sending text messages to the weapons of mass destruction site. A new exhibit showing child victims of anti-personnel landmines has been added.

G. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace

67. The Department has continued to coordinate the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace programme promoting United Nations-related issues through the special efforts of celebrity advocates. During the reporting period, Messengers of Peace Michael Douglas and Jane Goodall made a number of contributions on disarmament-related issues.

68. Ms. Goodall participated in the observance of the 2009 International Day of Peace at United Nations Headquarters, attending the traditional Peace Bell ceremony and taking part in the student observance on disarmament. She also took part in a panel discussion during the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, entitled "Sustainable security for the 21st century", which focused on linkages between disarmament and development and was co-sponsored by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Global Security Institute.

H. Public affairs

69. During the reporting period, 479,243 visitors took the guided tours of Headquarters, which has a disarmament component on the tour route. The tours were offered in Arabic, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. More than 5,000

visitors took the audio tours, which were introduced on 6 October 2009. The Department organized 47 in-house briefings on disarmament and related issues which were attended by a total of 1,347 participants.

VI. Conclusions

70. **During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.**

71. **Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications to electronic formats. The two-part *Disarmament Yearbook*, the Occasional Papers series and "Disarmament Update" are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.**

72. **The website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs has expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information. With the assistance of the Department of Public Information, the Office for Disarmament Affairs will continue to improve the website with a whole new design to provide current and accurate information in a dynamic and easily retrievable format.**

73. **The Department of Public Information has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.**

74. **The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Governments for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work. It would like to express appreciation in particular to the Governments and private donors for their financial contributions to the Trust Fund.**

Annex

Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as at 31 December 2009

		(United States dollars)
I.	Fund balance as at 1 January 2008	328 216
II.	Income, 1 January 2008-31 December 2009	
	Voluntary contributions	174 000
	Interest income	23 079
	Miscellaneous income	5 458
	Subtotal	**202 537**
III.	Expenditure	
	1 January 2008-31 December 2009	168 002
	Programme support costs (United Nations)	21 840
	Subtotal	**189 842**
	Adjustments	2
IV.	Fund balance as at 31 December 2009	340 913

Source: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2008-2009 ending 31 December 2009. During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009, additional contributions totalling $52,000 were received from Thailand ($1,000), Panama ($1,000) and a private donor ($50,000). In 2008, the following contributions were received: a private donor ($100,000), Thailand ($1,000), Mexico ($10,000), Panama ($1,000) and the Republic of Korea ($10,000).

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Sixty-fifth session
Item 99 (k) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Disarmament and non-proliferation education

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 63/70 in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education. It contains information from Member States, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions on the implementation of the 34 recommendations of the United Nations study.

* A/65/150.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Implementation of the recommendations by Member States	4
	A. Replies received from Member States	4
	Burkina Faso	4
	Japan	4
	Mexico	5
	Spain	6
	Ukraine	8
	B. First Committee	8
	C. 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	8
III.	Implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations	9
	A. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs	9
	B. Department of Public Information	11
	C. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	11
	D. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean	12
	E. International Atomic Energy Agency	13
	F. Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	14
	G. Organization of American States	16
	H. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	16
	I. United Nations University	17
IV.	Implementation of the recommendations by civil society and non-governmental organizations	17
	A. Action des citoyens pour le désarmement nucléaire	17
	B. Ban All Nukes Generation: European Youth Network for Nuclear Disarmament	18
	C. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament	18
	D. Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons	18
	E. Daisy Alliance	18
	F. Ehime University	19
	G. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War	19
	H. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies	19

I. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation 21
J. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament 21
K. Peace Boat 22
L. Peace Foundation 23
M. Physicians for Global Survival 23
N. Project Ploughshares 23
O. Religions for Peace 23
P. Russian Center for Policy Studies 24
Q. Saskatoon Peace Coalition 24
R. Soka Gakkai International 25
S. Toronto Hiroshima Day Coalition 25
T. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 25
V. Conclusions 25

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 63/70, entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. Recommendation 32 of the United Nations study encouraged the Secretary-General to prepare a biennial report along the same lines.

2. Recommendation 31 of the study, inter alia, encouraged Member States to inform the Office for Disarmament Affairs on steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

3. The present report contains information compiled by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the study by Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations and should be read in conjunction with the 34 recommendations of the study (A/57/124). Based on the information received, activities associated with recommendations 1 to 8, 12 to 14, 17 to 26, 29 to 31 and 33 were implemented during the reporting period. Pursuant to United Nations guidelines on limiting documentation, the information contained in the present report, as well as additional material, is available on the disarmament education website, at www.un.org/disarmament/education/index.html.

II. Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

A. Replies received from Member States

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[10 June 2010]

In Burkina Faso, the introduction of civic and moral instruction into the education system has made it possible to instil in young people ideals of peace with a view to building a secure world free of weapons.

The theatre can also be used as a vehicle for spreading messages of peace and peaceful coexistence among young people.

Japan

[Original: English]
[7 June 2010]

As the only country to have experienced devastation from nuclear bombing during war, Japan is committed to ensuring that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never be forgotten. With this aim, Japan places utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially for the younger generation.

The following illustrates Japan's efforts in this field:

1. United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

   Since 1983, Japan has invited more than 700 participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme to Japan, including to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

2. United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues

   Japan has sponsored a United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in a different Japanese city each year since 1989, at which distinguished disarmament experts from around the world engage in useful discussions.

3. Submission of working papers and delivery of statements

   Japan submitted working papers and delivered statements on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its Preparatory Committee.

4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs materials

   Japan published and updated a book that provides useful information on disarmament and non-proliferation in both Japanese and English, and published a pamphlet briefly describing Japan's efforts.

5. Lecture by disarmament experts

   Japan invited disarmament experts from abroad to give a lecture in Japan.

6. Disarmament and non-proliferation seminar

   On the margins of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee, Japan hosted seminars on how to hand down experiences of nuclear devastation to the younger generation (second session) and on practical ways and tools to raise public awareness (third session).

7. Pop culture and visuals

   Mangas and picture books related to the experience of the atomic bombs were distributed to the participants at the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee.

8. Peace efforts and peace education

   On a number of occasions, Japan supported the efforts of local governments and non-governmental organizations to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs in foreign countries, and Japan itself held such exhibitions in foreign countries.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[25 May 2010]

Mexico believes that education is a fundamental tool for promoting and consolidating disarmament and non-proliferation, bearing in mind that the purpose of the resolution is to highlight the need to expand and improve education and

training on those subjects in Member States with a view to promoting international security and boosting Member States' economic development.

In that context, institutions such as the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Navy have included, in their training programmes for chiefs and officials, topics relating to disarmament and non-proliferation, as reflected in Mexican military doctrine, which establishes the principles of non-intervention and non-use of the threat of force as the fundamental basis for implementing national defence plans, in accordance with which the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction is considered unnecessary for ensuring Mexico's external defence.

Likewise, in the civilian context, Mexico's position of support for disarmament has consistently been taught in the national education system. Various higher education institutions have been the main organizers of events aimed at raising awareness among the student and academic community of the importance of promoting disarmament and non-proliferation as a valuable tool for ensuring international peace and security.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also encouraged the participation of civil society organizations in events to promote disarmament, such as the sixty-second Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, entitled "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now", which was held in Mexico in September 2009 and had a significant impact as part of activities to promote disarmament.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[5 May 2010]

As far as Spain is concerned, with regard solely to training through the Ministry of Defence, disarmament and non-proliferation education is generally provided at all levels of instruction (basic and advanced training and advanced defence studies), in the context of curricula relating to strategy, security and defence. The commanding officers of the Armed Forces are thus appropriately knowledgeable about and aware of these issues.

The Ministry of Defence also has extensive responsibility for transmitting these values to the rest of society. Article 31 of Organic Law 5/2005 of 17 November concerning national defence purposely establishes that the Ministry of Defence will promote the development of the defence culture so that Spanish society can be familiar with and appreciative of its history and identify with it and with the cooperative and effective effort made by the Armed Forces to protect the national interests.

Accordingly, among the guidelines for the development of defence policy at the national level, National Defence Directive 1/2008 establishes, with regard to cooperation between the Ministry of Defence and other agencies, the need to "encourage and promote a culture of security and defence in society, foster better knowledge of the role accorded to the Armed Forces by our Constitution and promote wider public support for the different military branches".

Disarmament and efforts to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are part of the main thrust of defence policy that has remained constant

over recent decades and are also central elements in Spain's foreign policy. For these reasons, disarmament and non-proliferation issues are part of the above-mentioned security and defence culture.

In connection with this promotion of a general defence culture, it should be noted that Spanish government officials (especially from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Defence, the Interior, Industry, Tourism and Trade, and Development) regularly take part in seminars, lectures or postgraduate studies on disarmament and non-proliferation.

The activities of this kind organized by the Ministry of Defence are coordinated and financed, to varying degrees, through the Ministry's own institutions such as the Spanish Strategic Studies Institute (IEEE) or under collaborative agreements with various universities and public and private institutions pursuing the same goals. The activities go beyond teaching and place great emphasis on research, not forgetting international cooperation.

The main centres providing disarmament and non-proliferation instruction are:

Military training academies

Training for entry or secondment to the various ranks of the Armed Forces is aimed at acquisition of the skills and experience necessary for professional duty. The curricula of these academies include modules relating to fulfilment of the commitments entered into by Spain with regard to disarmament and non-proliferation.

Spanish Strategic Studies Institute (IEEE) (part of the Ministry of Defence)

This Institute is specifically entrusted with promoting the defence culture and organizes and finances several collaborative agreements between the Ministry of Defence and various civil society organizations.

"General Gutiérrez Mellado" Academic Institute

An institution established by agreement between the National University of Distance Learning (UNED) and the Ministry of Defence. It offers various postgraduate programmes (doctorate, master's, university specialist and expert), with flexible and modular arrangements. Disarmament and non-proliferation are included, in general terms, in various courses relating to peace, security and defence. However, there are courses dealing specifically with disarmament and non-proliferation.

Centre for Advanced National Defence Studies (part of the Ministry of Defence)

This is the main centre for advanced defence studies. These include the course on the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, taught by several officers from the three military branches, and the curricula cover issues relating to disarmament and non-proliferation.

In addition, a Master's in Security and Defence, also covering these issues, is offered in cooperation with the Complutense University, Madrid.

Verification is a fundamental aspect of disarmament. A system of verification at various stages of command has been set up within the Ministry of Defence. The

core of this system is the Spanish Verification Unit, which participates in various training activities connected with arms verification and control.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[17 May 2010]

In 2009, the Armed Forces of Ukraine carried out a number of activities to improve the system of military education and science. Large training academies for different branches of the military, incorporating training units, have been established; as a result, training, retraining and skills upgrading for military experts from all levels of the military administration are now concentrated at integrated training bases, and military education and science have been consolidated.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine recognize the relevance and importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education as a necessary element of the process of strengthening international security.

As part of a vocational training programme, each year lectures, seminars and practical classes for study of the provisions of international treaties and agreements and of the requirements of national guidelines on disarmament and non-proliferation are organized. Personnel are provided with information about these activities.

B. First Committee

4. During the general debate in the First Committee at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, Japan recalled its efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education, including its annual invitation to young diplomats to Hiroshima and Nagasaki through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme. Japan re-emphasized the significance of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and urged all Member States to put them into practice.

C. 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Japan and the United Nations University (UNU) submitted a joint working paper on their efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2010/WP.6, available at www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010/workingpapers.shtml). Japan and UNU expressed their commitment to work cooperatively with civil society, and appealed to the international community to take concerted actions to strengthen partnerships with civil society in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education and make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons.

6. The Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), available at www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010/docs.shtml) stated that the Conference underscored the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education as a useful and effective means to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. The Conference resolved that all States

were encouraged to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/57/124) regarding the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in order to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

III. Implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations

A. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

7. In September 2009, in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs issued a user-friendly educational booklet on disarmament and non-proliferation, entitled "Disarmament: a basic guide". It is available in hard copy in both English and Spanish, and electronic versions are available online at www.un.org/disarmament/education/index.html.

8. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean collaborated with the Organization of American States (OAS) in creating a region-specific inter-American virtual clearing house to consider proposals on disarmament and non-proliferation education and review frameworks for implementation.

9. From 2008 to 2010, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa organized a series of seminars on the principles of disarmament and security sector reform for parliamentarians and the armed and security forces of Benin, Togo and other francophone countries. The Centre made a substantive contribution to the elaboration of a course on the control of small arms and light weapons for the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre.

10. The Centre also organized capacity-building activities for parliamentarians from African States, including a workshop on "International and regional instruments on small arms control: how to make use of them at the national level", in Lomé, in December 2009. The Centre provided a training module on small arms and light weapons for a capacity-building workshop for media organized by the Togolese National Commission to Combat the Proliferation, Illicit Circulation of and Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

11. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean developed a disarmament advocacy course aimed at helping both diplomats and diplomats-in-training to gain in-depth knowledge of the various disarmament and security-related issues and to increase their capacity to implement disarmament-related instruments.

12. Information on capacity-building activities undertaken by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the areas of small arms and light weapons and weapons of mass destruction and by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) are available in separate reports that will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session (report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and

Development in Latin America and the Caribbean; report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Development in Asia and the Pacific; report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms; consolidated report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on small arms; and Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)).

13. In September 2008 and 2009, the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and Asia respectively organized various disarmament-related awareness-raising events in observance of the International Day of Peace and International Disarmament Week.

14. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to organize the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme; a separate report on the programme will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

15. Since 2008, the Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York and its Geneva branch have trained more than 65 graduate and undergraduate students through the United Nations internship programme.

16. Since 2007, the Office has been maintaining and updating the website "Disarmament education: resources for learning" featuring disarmament education materials from the United Nations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations, including a section for use in the classroom by teachers and students (see www.un.org/disarmament/education/teachers_students.html).

17. In 4 May 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and the National Film Board of Canada sponsored a screening of *The Strangest Dream*, depicting the story of Joseph Rotblat and the efforts of the Pugwash Conferences, which Rotblat founded, to halt nuclear proliferation. The director of the film, Eric Bednarski, took questions from the audience following the screening.

18. On the margins of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, in the First Committee, two films were shown for delegates, United Nations staff, non-governmental organizations and journalists. In October 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations sponsored a screening of *The Silent Army*. The screening was followed by a panel discussion on child soldiers and small arms. Also in October 2009, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Peace Boat US sponsored a screening of the documentary film, *Flashes of Hope: Hibakusha Travelling the World*. The film featured the journey of 100 *hibakusha*, (atomic bomb survivors) around the world on a cruise ship called the *Peace Boat* where they shared testimonies of their experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The director of the film, Erika Bagnarello, took questions from the audience following the screening.

19. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research continued to brief the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, on a biennial basis, on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training work, and the topic was included on the Board's agenda at its 2010 session.

B. Department of Public Information

20. The Department of Public Information continued its long-term collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including the updating and maintenance of the educational disarmament and non-proliferation website on the United Nations Cyberschoolbus site. The website was jointly launched by the two Departments in October 2007 in support of the recommendations made in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which called for increased disarmament and non-proliferation online content (see http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/dnp). The site provides teachers and students from late middle school to early college with lesson plans and activities for the classroom.

21. During the reporting period, two new curricula focusing on the link between development and disarmament and a new book on current issues relating to the peaceful uses of outer space and how it is connected to the disarmament agenda were completed.

22. A new book entitled *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do* aims to provide youth with concrete ideas on how they can help raise awareness about disarmament and non-proliferation issues. The book is due to be published in the second half of 2010.

23. The content for a new website which visualizes *Nobel Voices for Disarmament: 1901-2001*, a recording that currently exists as an audio version only, is under development and will feature interviews with Nobel Laureates recognized for their work in promoting disarmament. Production on the website is due to begin later in 2010.

C. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

24. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) continues to expand its production and dissemination of materials in languages other than English, most recently in French, Spanish and Russian. As part of its systematic approach to increasing the production of materials in languages other than English, the Institute began producing executive summaries of all its publications in French in 2010.

25. The UNIDIR quarterly journal, *Disarmament Forum*, continues to be the Institute's flagship educational output. In 2009, it celebrated its tenth anniversary. Although the format has recently been changed, the founding vision of the journal, namely to provide timely, expert analysis of key disarmament and security topics in a manner that is widely accessible to specialists and non-specialists alike, remains unchanged.

26. As noted in the United Nations study, information technologies offer substantial opportunities for wider dissemination of education-related materials as well as the development of new materials that take advantage of electronic formats. The Institute is actively using social media platforms both to reach new audiences and to deliver content in innovative ways to existing audiences. Its first blog, "Disarmament insight" (http://disarmamentinsight.blogspot.com/), has been extremely successful. Audio files of UNIDIR events are now a regular output of the Institute's activities as a way to disseminate disarmament-related information to the

widest audience possible. Audio files of presentations are available at www.unidir.org/html/en/media.html.

27. The Institute assisted the University for Peace with the development of disarmament education courses in Geneva and recently signed a memorandum of understanding to consolidate that cooperation. Its staff members are regularly requested to teach modules in University of Peace courses. In addition, they regularly brief visiting student groups and fellowship programmes on disarmament and security themes. For example, a teaching module on disarmament law was held in 2009 for Master's students of international humanitarian law and human rights. The Institute continues to place strong emphasis on the importance of on-the-job training and has further strengthened its internship and visiting fellowship programme.

28. Many of UNIDIR's other education-related activities described in previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/59/178, A/61/169 and A/63/158) are ongoing. More detailed information on specific aspects of UNIDIR education activities are available at www.unidir.org.

D. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

29. During this period, in 2009 the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean began delivering courses in Spanish on subjects relating to nuclear weapons. The first course was attended in person by representatives of the States members of the Agency. The second was an online course for government officials, political advisers, legislators and members of the armed forces of States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The third course, which was also conducted online, began in June 2010 with the participation of academics, armed forces officers and foreign affairs officials. Courses in English are scheduled for 2010.

30. Also in 2009, the Agency produced a documentary in Spanish entitled "Let's Say No to Nuclear Weapons", which is aimed at primary and secondary school students with the goal of raising awareness about the importance of nuclear disarmament and the danger that nuclear weapons represent for the world. The video was distributed to member States for use in their peace and nuclear disarmament education programmes. Plans are being made to have it translated into English and Portuguese.

31. The Agency also participated in a variety of activities to promote the goals of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the importance of Latin America and the Caribbean being a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Activities conducted in 2008 include the regional seminar "Towards 2010: the Role of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in Strengthening the Disarmament Objectives of the Non-Proliferation Treaty", organized by the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies; the "Regional Seminar on the Strengthened International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards System for Caribbean States with Limited Nuclear Material and Activities"; and the "Nuclear Challenges" seminar organized by the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales and the Governments of Norway and Chile. In April 2010 the Agency participated in the

Civil Society Forum on Nuclear Weapon Free Zones held at United Nations headquarters, in the session on "Lessons from existing nuclear-weapon-free zones".

32. In 2010 the Agency, in conjunction with the Baur Cultural Foundation, the Universum Museum of the Sciences at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Soka Gakkai Organization and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, organized an event entitled "April, Nuclear Disarmament Month at Universum" to impart knowledge about nuclear disarmament to children and youth. An internship programme for university students also began operating in 2010.

33. Through its web page, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean disseminates information on nuclear disarmament, its principles and purposes and on activities carried out by the Agency, by other nuclear-weapon-free zones and by the international community (see www.opanal.org).

34. As a result of the meeting of focal points of nuclear-weapon-free zones held in April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, the Agency in 2010 established a web page on nuclear-weapon-free zones to which focal points can upload relevant information (see www.nuclearweaponsfreezones.org).

35. Currently, the Agency plans to continue the education programmes already being implemented, particularly the online courses on subjects relating to nuclear disarmament and the internships for university undergraduate and graduate students, and to promote activities in conjunction with member States and with other international and non-governmental organizations that share its objectives with respect to nuclear disarmament education.

E. International Atomic Energy Agency

36. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) hosts periodic seminars for invited representatives of non-governmental organizations and conducts educational seminars and technical meetings for diplomats and journalists, with a view to educating them and enhancing their understanding of IAEA activities in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

37. Outreach efforts are conducted in conjunction with the implementation of IAEA General Conference resolutions on strengthening global cooperation in the areas of nuclear education and training aimed at preserving knowledge in the nuclear area, sustaining nuclear infrastructures and fostering science, technology and engineering for enhancing nuclear safeguards, safety and security.

38. Outreach efforts are also conducted to promote the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, through seminars, briefings, training and publications. The Agency also provides education and training in nuclear law in the areas of safeguards (nuclear non-proliferation), nuclear security and nuclear safety. Furthermore, education and training are provided by IAEA in support of the safe and secure development and use of nuclear applications, including nuclear energy. Training and education are also provided in the area of nuclear security.

39. The Agency's publications include a quarterly journal, informative brochures, thematic reports, articles and opinion pieces written by the Director General and

other IAEA staff. Overall, nearly 200 publications and newsletters were issued, in print and electronic formats, in 2009 and 2010, several of which relate to nuclear non-proliferation and verification. The Agency also produced, in all United Nations languages, a number of videos illustrating its activities, including those carried out in the field of nuclear verification. Video clips are available on the IAEA website (www.iaea.org).

40. In addition to hiring highly qualified and experienced staff, the Agency offers job opportunities for young professionals under a "Junior Professional Officer" programme.

41. The Agency provides opportunities for internships in many areas of work to persons studying for an advanced university degree or persons who have recently received such a degree.

42. The IAEA fellowship programme for young professional women aims to increase the proportion of females from Member States employed by the Agency and Member States' nuclear-related institutions. Funds for this programme are used to help young women who are pursuing an advanced degree or who have recently graduated to gain practical international work experience in areas encompassing nuclear technology, applications and technical cooperation. Specifically, the programme provides young women with six-month fellowships at the Agency, where they assist in the regular activities of appropriate technical divisions.

F. Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

43. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons produces several regular print publications for stakeholders and the general public, including information booklets on regional activities and legislative matters, which are updated on a regular basis. Information on chemical disarmament and non-proliferation is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish on the Organization's website (www.opcw.org).

44. In 2009, the thematic segment of the eleventh Annual Meeting of National Authorities focused on sharing experiences in the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention by National Authorities, including: (a) practical steps taken in relation to the organization and structure of a National Authority; (b) domestic sensitization efforts; (c) preparation of article VI declarations on chemical industry activities; and (d) facilitation of article VI inspections.

45. The Organization organized a series of specialized workshops for customs officials involved in the transfer of chemicals under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The workshops provided information on best practices and an opportunity to interact with the Organization's technical secretariat. In 2009 and 2010, subregional training courses for customs authorities were held in Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania; Ouagadougou; Hong Kong, China; Kampala; and Prague.

46. The Organization provided skills development training for analytical chemists from Member States with economies that are either developing or in transition. The training enabled participants to acquire further experience and practical knowledge in the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention. To date, this course has

benefited a total of 186 chemists, including 75 from Africa, 42 from Asia and Latin America, 22 from Eastern Europe and 5 from Western Europe and Other States.

47. The Organization also supported the exchange of scientific and technical information relevant to the Convention and the peaceful applications of chemistry. In recent years, it facilitated the participation of scientists and technical personnel in conferences and seminars and funded small-scale research projects and fellowships for chemical scientists and engineers from research institutions, laboratories and recognized universities.

48. In addition, the Organization supports the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme by hosting a group of disarmament fellows at its headquarters each year. During the two-day visit, participants attend lectures and presentations on the Chemical Weapons Convention and its contribution to disarmament and non-proliferation. Fellows are also given the opportunity to exchange views with the Organization's experts on matters concerning the implementation of the Convention.

49. The Organization organizes an annual induction course for diplomats, to familiarize them with the work of the Organization and introduce them to the main features of the Convention as a key disarmament treaty as well as to the work of the Organization and its main programme areas.

50. Cooperative relations were recently established with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, with a view to making the Convention a regular feature of the Centre's curriculum. The secretariat also supports youth educational programmes such as Model United Nations.

51. As part of its outreach programme, the technical secretariat regularly hosts group visits to the Organization's headquarters by university students, diplomats and national officials. In 2009, it received nearly 50 groups, totalling more than 1,000 visitors.

52. To strengthen competence and technical capabilities for the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention, the Organization provides modern analytical instrumentation and on-the-job training to five publicly funded chemical laboratories in developing countries. On-site training was also provided to another six laboratories to enable the establishment of an adequate quality assurance system for analysing chemicals related to the Convention.

53. The secretariat maintains a reference library with an electronic database that includes more than 7,000 titles relating principally to chemical disarmament and non-proliferation. The library provides services to staff members and is accessible to academics, researchers, non-governmental organizations and others visitors on advance request.

54. Since 2008, the Organization has hosted approximately 60 undergraduate and graduate-level student interns from several countries and disciplines as part of their degree requirements.

55. The Organization manages an external internship programme that places participants in host chemical industries for on-the-job training in activities relevant to the Convention, which enables them to gain practical experience in the functions of an international treaty organization.

56. A public service announcement concerning the Convention was made available for broadcast to global and regional television networks and for use on the Internet. The Organization also maintains stock video of its disarmament and non-proliferation activities for producing video news releases, B-rolls[1] and other audio-visual products, which are available on request to documentary filmmakers.

G. Organization of American States

57. The States members of the Organization of American States (OAS) adopted resolution AG/RES. 2533 (XL-O/10) entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation in the hemisphere", bearing in mind the determination of the international community to promote and adopt specific measures to foster a culture of peace and non-violence in all countries of the world and the significant contribution that disarmament and non-proliferation education can make in adopting such measures, and recalling that, in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, the States reaffirmed their commitment to arms control, disarmament, and the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction. In the resolution, the Member States reiterate their consideration of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, which are intended to strengthen education and training for disarmament and non-proliferation.

58. Through the Inter-American Defense College, the Organization invited the Inter-American Defense Board to organize a seminar on disarmament and non-proliferation for the students at the College and the Committee on Hemispheric Security of the Permanent Council of OAS. It also invited the Board to examine, collect and make public and readily accessible the curricula and programmes on disarmament and non-proliferation that States or international organizations have prepared for school systems and university courses. The Member States also included the topic of disarmament and non-proliferation in the hemisphere on the Committee's calendar of activities for the 2011-2012 period.

H. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

59. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization attaches great importance to disarmament and non-proliferation education and training. Its strategy aims to promote both the entry into force and universality of the Treaty and the build-up of the international monitoring system and the completion of the verification regime.

60. Particular focus is being placed on the utilization of electronic tools, with a comprehensive website and new networking tools, such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. The Organization also continues its active outreach work with the media.

61. Increasing emphasis has been placed on capacity-building and training as part of an integrated capacity development strategy. Capacity-building efforts were enhanced through restructured and consolidated training activities and increased

[1] B-roll is supplemental or alternate footage intercut with the mainshot in an interview or documentary.

distance and web-based learning opportunities. In addition, the Organization seeks to establish open, flexible and tailor-made cooperative arrangements with potential partners for capacity development from all parts of the world.

I. United Nations University

62. In early 2010, the United Nations University prepared a joint working paper with the Foreign Ministry of Japan, entitled "Disarmament and non-proliferation education: promoting cooperation with civil society towards a world without nuclear weapons" (NPT/CONF.2010/WP.6). This pioneering example of the University's engagement in co-authoring an official United Nations document signifies its evolving role as a research think tank of the United Nations system. The joint working paper described the University's research and education activities relating to non-proliferation and disarmament education. More information on UNU publications and research projects is available at http://unu.edu/publications.

63. The University addresses disarmament and non-proliferation issues in its educational and capacity-building activities, including in the curricula for the new postgraduate degree programme, which is to begin in September 2010. The UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace in Tokyo offers a master's degree that will contain a compulsory course on international peace and security and an optional course on contemporary security issues, both of which will include non-proliferation and disarmament components.

64. The University has been working with Hiroshima University on peace education and the enhancement of a culture of peace by bringing global and contemporary perspectives to the issue of nuclear weapons and helping to raise global awareness of nuclear devastation. In August 2009, it participated in the International Network of Universities Master's Summer School on Global Citizenship and in the Network's student seminar on migration, refugees and peace, in Hiroshima. It also participated in the Network's student seminar "Can nuclear weapons be declared illegal by international law?", held in August 2008, in Hiroshima.

65. The University organizes conferences and forums on a regular basis, facilitating interaction between universities, civil society organizations and Governments. In 2010, it held two policy forums on the topic of nuclear weapons.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations by civil society and non-governmental organizations

A. Action des citoyens pour le désarmement nucléaire

66. In May 2008, Action des citoyens pour le désarmement nucléaire organized the third rally for international nuclear, biological and chemical disarmament in Saintes, France. The organization contributes to the dissemination of disarmament and non-proliferation education-related materials to the public, in both French and English, on its website (www.acdn.net).

B. Ban All Nukes Generation: European Youth Network for Nuclear Disarmament

67. In 2009, Ban All Nukes Generation made available a collection of disarmament and non-proliferation education-related materials and methods on its website (http://bang-europe.org/resources.html#education).

68. In May 2009, at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, 30 university students from Germany simulated negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. It was the second time such an event had been co-organized by the Network; it was co-sponsored by the International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation and co-chaired by Dimity Hawkins of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Ambassador Alfredo Labbé of Chile. The simulation exercise was repeated in May 2010, with the participation of 35 international students, and was co-organized by the International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation and the University of Hamburg and supported by Ban All Nukes Generation.

C. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

69. All the materials produced by Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament conform to the national curriculum of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, facilitating their use by teachers. The organization has tried to make the materials as cross-curricular as possible, so that they can be used in science, English, humanities, citizenship, religious education, maths and art classrooms. All the classroom activities are based on active and cooperative learning, encouraging young people to work together and create peace education. The materials are also available for download from the organization's website (www.cnduk.org/education).

D. Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

70. A conference on practical steps to zero nuclear weapons was held in January 2010, to enable discussion of a series of recommendations to the Government of Canada on practical steps that it could take to further progress at the ongoing review of the strategic concept of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit. The Conference was co-organized by the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the Canadian Pugwash Group, Physicians for Global Survival, Project Ploughshares and the World Federalist Movement-Canada, and sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Department of National Defence of Canada. The final report, which was widely circulated and endorsed by 28 Canadian groups, was forwarded to Government officials in relevant positions, key parliamentarians and non-governmental organization representatives.

E. Daisy Alliance

71. Daisy Alliance sponsored an annual student scholarship and essay contest for high school, undergraduate and graduate students worldwide on relevant non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control topics. In collaboration with

universities, Daisy Alliance advocated for the inclusion of disarmament education in university curricula, and worked with educators and student groups to organize guest lectures, presentations and discussions on disarmament and non-proliferation-related issues. It also published a monthly online newsletter to provide timely coverage and detailed analysis of recent developments on important issues in non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control.

F. Ehime University

72. Ehime University in Matsuyama, Japan, has offered a full-year prerequisite course on peace and nuclear disarmament to sophomore students since 2005. In 2009, the students did fieldwork in Hiroshima, which enhanced their interest in disarmament affairs.

G. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

73. In the past two years, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War visited the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to conduct seminars on nuclear threat and informal discussions with physicians. Its disarmament and non-proliferation education-related materials are available at www.ippnw.org.

74. As the coordinator of the public health network of the International Action Network on Small Arms, the organization presented numerous papers on armed violence and health in plenary sessions and workshops at major international health conferences. It also encouraged the use of violence prevention curricula in medical and public health schools, including the World Health Organization (WHO), TEACH-VIP (violence and injury prevention) module. It participated in the development of the new online module of TEACH-VIP and developed a training package with presentation materials on public health approaches to violence prevention, which was distributed to its 62 affiliates.

H. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

75. The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies has increasingly made use of various forms of online learning, including lectures, tutorials, background material and study guides for students, teachers, media, researchers, policymakers, and the general public. For more on its online learning tools, please see http://cns.miis.edu/multimedia/index.htm, http://www.nti.org/h_learnmore/h3_tutorial.html and http://www.nti.org/h_learnmore/h5_study_guides.html.

76. Several of the Center's publications are translated into Russian and Chinese, including online publications produced for the Nuclear Threat Initiative. In addition, the NPT tutorial and country profiles are also available in Russian.

77. The Center's core educational programme is the Certificate in Non-Proliferation Studies, awarded by the Graduate School of International Policy and Management of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Over 370 students have graduated with the certificate since it was inaugurated in 1997, and more than 80 per cent of graduates are currently involved professionally in

non-proliferation and disarmament-related work. In the past two academic years, more than 60 students earned the Certificate in Non-Proliferation Studies.

78. The Center's high school outreach and exchange programme, entitled the "Critical Issues Forum", brings United States high schools together with schools in selected cities of the Russian Federation affected by nuclear-related issues, to study non-proliferation and international security issues. The programme started with the teacher's curriculum development workshop. Under the instruction of each school's Critical Issues Forum teacher, participating students studied nuclear disarmament issues from various aspects. Over 200 students and teachers from 16 American high schools and 10 schools in the Russian Federation participated in the programme in the past two years. For more information, see http://www.criticalissuesforum.org/index.html.

79. Over the period 2008-2010, the Center organized several diplomatic workshops on the NPT, to provide an informal forum for national delegations to discuss the most pressing proliferation issues and to actively promote a successful 2010 NPT Review Conference. For information on the workshops, see http://cns.miis.edu/treaty_npt/workshop_100312_pr.htm and http://cns.miis.edu/treaty_npt/pdfs/090414_final_annecy_2009_report.pdf.

80. During 2008-2010, the Center hosted approximately 40 visiting fellows through its visiting fellows programme, which is designed to assist young and mid-career professionals in various foreign ministries, national export control bodies, journalists and research and academic institutions in developing skills that will enable them to have a positive impact on arms control and non-proliferation policy in their respective countries.

81. The Center initiated an intensive one-week course on international nuclear safeguards in 2008. The course, offered in the month of June in cooperation with United States national laboratories and with support from the Next Generation Safeguards Initiative of the National Nuclear Security Administration,[2] provides background knowledge and analytical tools and techniques useful for careers in nuclear safeguards. Since 2008, 75 students from 12 countries have participated in the course. For more on this intensive course see http://cns.miis.edu/edu/course_nucsafe.htm.

82. The Center offers part-time graduate research assistantships and provides students who are specialized in non-proliferation studies with internship opportunities at international organizations. In the past two years, it sent approximately 10 students specializing in non-proliferation and disarmament to relevant international organizations. For more information, see http://cns.miis.edu/edu/internship_ionp.htm.

83. In the summers of 2008 and 2009, the Center provided on-the-job training in non-proliferation studies for 13 undergraduate students. For more information, see http://cns.miis.edu/edu/sumalum.htm.

84. In cooperation with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and with support from the Next Generation Safeguards Initiative, the Center initiated paid two-month summer internships at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in

[2] An agency within the United States Department of Energy.

Livermore, California in 2008. For more information, see http://cns.miis.edu/edu/internship_nucsafe.htm.

85. During the 2009 fall semester, over 20 graduate students of the Monterey Institute negotiated their own START follow-on treaty, in tandem with the new START negotiations between the United States of America and the Russian Federation in Geneva. For more information, see http://cns.miis.edu/activities/091208_smart_treaty/index.htm.

86. The founding director of the Center presented a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education at the fifty-third session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in February 2010. For the full report, see http://cns.miis.edu/activities/pdfs/100301_potter_un_sg_presentation.pdf.

I. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

87. In 2009, 220,000 signatures were submitted to the White House, along with a strong message to President Obama, encouraging his leadership for a nuclear weapon-free world. In 2009, over 53,000 messages advocating nuclear disarmament were sent to key decision makers via the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's action alert network.

88. The Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award and World Citizenship Award are given each year to outstanding peace leaders. Past recipients include the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Máiread Corrigan-Maguire.

89. The Foundation holds annual video and poetry contests that address the themes of nuclear disarmament and peace. More information is available at www.wagingpeace.org.

J. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

90. Members of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament participated in the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the 2010 NPT Review Conference, some as members of their Government delegations and others as independent observers, at which they organized a number of educational forums, including a panel on the theme "Advancing nuclear disarmament: the power of parliaments", featuring Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

91. The organization was active in a range of initiatives to support and strengthen existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and to encourage the exploration of possibilities for establishing additional ones. This included organizing the civil society forum for nuclear-weapon-free zones at the United Nations in April 2010, the final declaration of which was presented to the second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia and the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In Africa, the organization contributed to the achievement of additional ratifications, by African nations, of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone Treaty, enabling its entry into force in July 2009. In Japan and Korea, its members held two joint inter-parliamentary consultations on the proposal for a North-East Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone. In Europe, its members were active in the Central European nuclear-weapon-free zone proposal, participating in

conferences, writing articles and adopting resolutions in a number of parliaments. The organization also actively explored the possibility of establishing an Arctic nuclear-weapon-free zone. Lastly, it co-sponsored two conferences on the issue in Denmark, in conjunction with the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and the Danish Institute of International Affairs.

K. Peace Boat

92. Since its founding in 1983, Peace Boat has been active in the field of education for peace, disarmament and sustainability through the organization of educational voyages featuring lectures, workshops and study exchange programmes both on board the ship and in ports of call. Significant segments of general on-board education programmes are devoted to disarmament education. Guest educators, including world-renowned disarmament experts, come on board and engage with Peace Boat participants. Numerous lectures and workshops are held daily, offering educational opportunities to all participants on board. Close to 5,000 people from Japan and many other countries throughout the world took part in Peace Boat's on-board education programmes between July 2008 and June 2010.

93. Peace Boat started working with *hibakusha* in 2008 and has since organized three global voyages for a nuclear-free world, involving over 120 *hibakusha*.

94. In February 2009, one of the organization's Executive Committee members was officially appointed non-governmental organization Adviser to the co-Chairs of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Through public events and the Commission's NGO Network blog (http://icnndngojapan.wordpress.com/), Peace Boat educates the public about the Commission's proceedings and related issues, and advocates for the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study.

95. In May 2008, Peace Boat co-organized the large-scale "Global Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution[3] Conference to Abolish War in Japan", in which over 30,000 people participated. In 2009, follow-up events were organized in Latin America, notably the "Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution and Article 12 of the Costa Rican Constitution[4] Conference: Peace Constitutions for Global Disarmament", in Costa Rica, in July, and the "International Peace Constitutions Conference for Nuclear and Foreign Military Base Abolition", in Ecuador, in November. Both events focused on the contribution of Japan's Article 9 and the various Latin American peace constitutions, notably those of Costa Rica and Ecuador, and their significance in the area of disarmament.

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[3] Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. ... In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the State will not be recognized.

[4] The Army as a permanent institution is abolished. There shall be the necessary police forces for surveillance and the preservation of public order. Military forces may only be organized under a continental agreement or for national defence; in either case, they shall always be subordinate to the civil authorities: they may not deliberate or make statements or representations individually or collectively.

L. Peace Foundation

96. The Peace Foundation collaborated with the World Federation of United Nations Associations in a global competition in which students produced writings, posters and videos on the issue of nuclear disarmament. The winners met for a four-day conference in Geneva in July 2008 and were involved in follow-up youth activities, including a second global competition and a two-day global youth videoconference, in October 2009.

97. The Peace Foundation collaborates with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace on internships for overseas youth at its Wellington (New Zealand) office, and for New Zealand youth at its offices in Wellington, New York, Berlin, Brussels and Washington, D.C. These internships are educational and can sometimes lead to employment opportunities.

98. As part of the initiation of the World March for Peace and Non-Violence, the Peace Foundation launched the permanent "peace heritage walks" in Auckland and Wellington. The walks, promoted online and by brochure, include peace sculptures, gardens, trees and historic sites in the city centres, and are suitable for schoolchildren, tourists and residents.

M. Physicians for Global Survival

99. Four Canadian peace organizations (Science for Peace, Canadian Pugwash Group, Physicians for Global Survival and Canadian Voice of Women for Peace) co-sponsored a public forum on zero nuclear weapons in November 2009 at the Council Chamber of Toronto City Hall. Speakers addressed the audience from the site and interacted via videoconferencing from Hiroshima, Geneva and London. The entire event was recorded and placed on a website, where each speaker can be viewed at http://www.zeronuclearweapons.com/.

N. Project Ploughshares

100. Between July 2008 and June 2010, the Calgary branch of Project Ploughshares held 13 educational meetings covering a broad range of disarmament issues and three weekend workshops on relevant topics; created two campaigns for nuclear disarmament; led over 50 local groups in having a peace pole built in Calgary; ran a "Puppets for Peace" bully-proofing programme in schools; hosted a book launch; networked with eight groups with which some of its executive members were affiliated; and organized two film screenings, two International Day of Peace events and a candidates forum, at which disarmament issues were raised.

O. Religions for Peace

101. Religions for Peace produced two resource guides on disarmament subjects to help religious leaders and communities to better understand the issues and take concrete actions. The first guide is about cluster munitions and was launched at the "European Faith Leaders' Conference on Cluster Munitions" in Sarajevo in October

2008. Over 500 copies have been distributed worldwide. The second resource guide is about small arms and light weapons in Africa. It identifies key ways in which religious communities can help their communities and countries address the problem and highlights existing initiatives.

102. Religions for Peace coordinated a small grants programme to support religion-based actions related to disarmament. This resulted in workshops and training events on subjects related to cluster bombs, landmines and small arms and light weapons in eight countries, and enabled the creation or reproduction of resources in local languages and dialects.

103. In November 2009, the Religions for Peace Global Youth Network launched a year-long disarmament campaign called "Arms Down!". The launch, which took place in Costa Rica with support from the Arias Foundation and the participation of over 120 young religious leaders, emphasized skill-building and learning opportunities with experts. Since then, the campaign has generated a variety of educational resources such as fact sheets, bookmarks and videos related to disarmament issues in several languages.

P. Russian Center for Policy Studies

104. The Russian Center for Policy Studies maintains operation of its distance learning educational Internet module "Disarmament and non-proliferation education and training online resource channel" (see www.edu.pircenter.org). This website is the only Russian-language website that provides comprehensive information on nuclear non-proliferation for students, faculty and other people interested in the issue. The website is in both Russian and English.

105. Every year since 2001, the Center has organized its International Summer School on Global Security. The project is intended to broaden understanding of non-proliferation and disarmament issues and to upgrade knowledge in these spheres for young diplomats, Government representatives, researchers, trainers, lecturers and journalists. From 2008 to 2010, the summer school was attended by 69 participants from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, as well as other governmental entities of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan.

Q. Saskatoon Peace Coalition

106. Since 2008, the Saskatoon Peace Coalition of Canada has sponsored "Musicians for Peace" to commemorate International Peace Day, an event at which local musicians give concerts in local venues to promote world peace. In 2010, it is co-sponsoring "Writers for Peace", where local authors will give readings from their works on issues of peace. More information is available at www.saskatoon peace.wordpress.com

R. Soka Gakkai International

107. "The People's Decade" is a grass-roots educational initiative that aims to build international public opinion against nuclear weapons and increase the number of people who support and seek to live in a culture of peace. Launched in 2007 on the fiftieth anniversary of Josei Toda's anti-nuclear declaration,[5] the People's Decade has been engaged with and supported by the Soka Gakkai International community worldwide, and has collaborated with other anti-nuclear movements, such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. To date, various disarmament and non-proliferation education-related projects have been generated, the details of which are available at www.peoplesdecade.org.

S. Toronto Hiroshima Day Coalition

108. The Toronto Hiroshima Day Coalition held its annual commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in front of the Peace Garden at Toronto City Hall in August of 2008 and 2009, emphasizing that such weapons must never be used again. An additional commemoration of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki was held at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto in August 2009. The commemorations, which have been held for 35 years, included the reading of proclamations by the mayors of Hiroshima and Toronto, knowledgeable guest speakers, performances by guest artists, craft tables for children, a lantern ceremony, film screenings and photography and painting exhibits. More information is available at www.hiroshimadaycoalition.ca.

T. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

109. Through its project "Reaching critical will", the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom published a number of disarmament resources, guides and fact sheets online and in print; catalogued primary documentation from intergovernmental meetings on nuclear disarmament on its website, www.reachingcriticalwill.org; and helped facilitate youth conferences on disarmament in the United States.

110. The Swedish branch of the League produced online and print publications related to gender and nuclear weapons and cluster munitions, and translated disarmament education materials into Swedish on its website, www.ikff.se. The Norwegian branch published resources online and in print on uranium weapons, nuclear energy and nuclear weapons, and translated disarmament education materials into Norwegian and German on the websites, www.ikff.no and www.wloe.org. The Norwegian branch also facilitated a seminar at a student congress on how to raise awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons.

V. Conclusions

111. **The present report is the fourth on disarmament and non-proliferation education since the adoption of the United Nations study on disarmament and**

[5] Josei Toda was the second president of the association.

non-proliferation education in 2002. Compared to previous years, there was an overwhelming response from civil society on the implementation of the 34 recommendations contained in the study. This reflects the renewed interest in disarmament and non-proliferation education worldwide, and is highly encouraging at a time when the United Nations is promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education as an integral part of the education curriculum of the next generation.

112. **In order to sustain the momentum, all stakeholders must continue their efforts to do more. Some of the most effective past and current efforts are based on partnerships among Governments, international, regional and non-governmental organizations. The United Nations will continue to seek opportunities to promote and participate in such collaborative work.**

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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/261 on the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
	Enhanced human resources	3
II.	A more effective Department of Political Affairs	4
	A. Conflict prevention, mediation, and support to peace processes	5
	B. Backstopping field operations	7
	C. Working with resident coordinators and country teams	8
	D. Cooperation with regional organizations	9
	E. Electoral assistance	11
	F. Policy and Mediation Division	12
	G. Security Council affairs	13
III.	Challenges	13
	A. Management oversight	14
	B. Use of extrabudgetary resources	14
	C. External relations	15
	D. Funding and backstopping of special political missions	15
	E. Capacity of the Executive Office of the Department of Political Affairs	16
	F. Travel funds	16
IV.	Conclusion	16

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/261 on the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to it at its sixty-fifth session on the efficiency and effectiveness of the new structure in the implementation of mandates as well as programmatic delivery and improvements in the administrative and management processes and efficiency gains.

2. Working closely with national actors, the Department of Political Affairs is striving to become more proactive, agile and effective in addressing rising political tensions and emerging crises, and to deploy rapidly around the world to facilitate the peaceful resolution of emerging conflicts. Against this background, the Secretary-General, in his report on the revised estimates under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, section 3, Political affairs, section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 35, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 relating to the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/521), proposed to reconfigure the structure of the Department of Political Affairs to make it more responsive to the requests of Member States, and to that end to add capacities to make it more field-oriented, to further operationalize and professionalize conflict prevention and mediation, to allow for flexible responses to fast-evolving political situations, and to ensure better cooperation and liaison with Member States, regional organizations and other partners inside and outside the Organization. It was further noted that responsibilities had multiplied over the years without proportionate budgetary increases. To a significant degree, the Department relied on staff on temporary or extrabudgetary posts to carry out its core functions. The Department also realized the need to improve its effectiveness in several areas, including strategic planning, training, and management. For these reasons, an appeal was made to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs by increasing the number of staff by adding 101 new posts, largely at the P-2 and P-3 levels. The appeal also suggested the reorganization of its divisional structure by splitting the two transregional "mega divisions", the Asia and Pacific Division and the Europe and Americas Division, as well as by creating a new Division, a Policy Planning and Mediation Support Division.

3. In endorsing the thrust of the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in resolution 63/261, the General Assembly stressed the importance of improving the capacity of the United Nations to prevent and resolve conflict, recognizing that effective action by the Department of Political Affairs and its partners would help to avert tragedies, and save lives, humanitarian and peacekeeping dollars, and precious development gains.

4. By resolution 63/261, the General Assembly approved 49 out of the 101 requested posts and restructured the Department of Political Affairs by splitting the Asia and Pacific Division and the Americas and Europe Division, which resulted in a total of six regional divisions.[1] Table 1 shows how the 49 strengthening posts were distributed across the Department.

[1] By its resolution 63/261, the General Assembly established a new departmental substructure, including the creation of six regional divisions, namely, the Africa I Division, the Africa II Division, the Americas Division, the Asia and Pacific Division, the Europe Division, and the Middle East and West Asia Division.

Table 1
Strengthening posts by office or division of the Department of Political Affairs

Office or Division	*Strengthening staff*
Office of the Assistant Secretary-General (Africa)	1 (P-4)
Africa I Division	8 (3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 2-GS)
Africa II Division	6 (1 P-3, 4 P-2, 1-GS)
Middle East and West Asia Division	5 (1 P-5, 1 P-4 Iraq, 2 P-3, 1 P-2)
Asia and Pacific Division	4 (3 P-3, 1 P-2)
Americas Division	3 (1 P-5, 2 P-2)
Europe Division	1 (P-4 Cyprus)
Mediation Support Unit	7 (1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 P-2, 1-GS)
Electoral Assistance Division	8 (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 4-GS)
Security Council Affairs Division	2 (P-2)
Executive Office	1 (P-4)
United Nations Liaison Office (Addis Ababa)	3 (P-3, P-5, 1-LL)

5. In resolution 63/261, the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit an adjusted proposal before it would agree to the establishment of a Policy Planning and Mediation Support Division headed by a D-2 level director. In the context of the new biennial budget for 2010-2011, the Secretary-General submitted a new proposal to create a Policy and Mediation Division, which would synergize the work of the Department's policy planning, mediation support and regional organization units, allow proactive partnership development with agencies, funds and programmes and strengthen the Department's role as chair of the Executive Committee for Peace and Security. These proposals were endorsed by the General Assembly on 24 December 2009, in addition to the approval of the creation of Counter-Terrorism Task Force Office within the Department of Political Affairs, the Director of which reports to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Enhanced human resources

6. As of 21 July, 45 out of the 49 new posts have been filled. Every effort was made to ensure that these recruitments filled important gaps and bolstered underresourced areas. The Secretary-General concurred with the assessment made in the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs by the Office of Internal Oversight Services that, in addition to adding staff, a qualitative transformation in the work processes of the Department was required to ensure the fulfilment of the mandates of the Department of Political Affairs. This implied, first and foremost, the need to accord priority attention to the development of a human

resources strategy for the Department, focusing on ensuring requisite skill sets for staff, training and mobility, as well as greater geographic diversity.

7. With this in mind, and prior to filling any of the new posts, the Under-Secretary-General undertook an analysis to examine the substantive, language, and technical skills that each unit would require in the medium to long term and taking into account the need for geographic and gender diversity. Recommendations for new staffing were then compared with the results of that analysis, to ensure the Department's competence across a broad range of issue areas.

8. In addition, the Office of Human Resources Management was engaged to conduct a review of working methods and other team dynamics; the Department of Political Affairs is now implementing the resulting recommendations internally. The Department also participated in several Six Sigma initiatives led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, including in the area of senior appointments. The Executive Office has also streamlined work procedures in travel, and extrabudgetary project management.

II. A more effective Department of Political Affairs

9. A strengthened Department of Political Affairs is better positioned to provide quality political analysis and recommendations on crisis situations and to develop coherent conflict-prevention strategies. It has provided more effective support and advice to the Secretary-General in the conduct of his day-to-day activities. It has put the United Nations in a position to engage more proactively with Member States, regional organizations and other stakeholders on fluid political situations and to participate in key meetings and negotiation sessions on specific country situations, at an appropriate level.

10. The consolidation and strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs has enabled management to devote more time to providing strategic guidance and ensuring greater complementarity with other United Nations departments and agencies and interaction within and between the divisions. The splitting up of the former Asia Division, which encompassed geopolitically diverse regions, into two leaner divisions, each focusing on a set of inter-connected countries, the Asia and Pacific Division and the Middle East and West Asia Division, has introduced a more rational organization and the ability to focus on coherent regional conflict prevention strategies. Similarly, the splitting up of the Europe and Americas Division has allowed the two new divisions to craft more focused agendas tailored to their respective regions and to interact more proactively with relevant Member States and regional organizations.

11. The Department of Political Affairs has increased its effectiveness and flexibility in responding to a range of prevention, peacebuilding and mediation challenges. The Department has significantly enhanced its support to political and peace processes, in particular by developing a professionalized mediation support capacity that enables rapid response to urgent requests for mediation.

12. The Department responded to an extraordinarily high number of requests for electoral assistance. Importantly, regional divisions have been enabled to participate in electoral assistance missions, complementing electoral advice with critical regional expertise.

13. The Department of Political Affairs also enhanced the political advice and guidance provided to representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General and improved its backstopping of the 11 political and peacebuilding missions led by the Department. Its divisions have increased their collaboration and enhanced synergies with other parts of the United Nations system, by establishing inter-agency working groups and task forces in support of its efforts in specific situations. The Department is also improving its engagement with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, in particular in countries with rising political tension.

14. The Department has worked closely with Member States to deal with internal situations requiring the independence and credibility that only the United Nations can provide. Examples of this include the Commission of Inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the assassination of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto which was formed at the request of the Government of Pakistan, and the Department's ongoing support to the International Commission Against Impunity, which was provided at the request of the Government of Guatemala.

A. Conflict prevention, mediation and support to peace processes

15. Over the past year, the Department and its missions have been involved in good offices efforts in more than 30 cases, including Burundi, the Central African Republic, the five countries of Central Asia, Cameroon and Nigeria, the Comoros, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, Fiji, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Ghana and the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Honduras, Iraq, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritania, the Middle East peace process, Myanmar, Nepal, the Niger, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo and Western Sahara. In 2009, the Policy and Mediation Division provided support in 19 cases.

16. The increase in resources has helped the Department's Divisions to focus on conflict prevention efforts by dedicating more time to developing comprehensive strategies that address the deep-rooted causes of conflict. In addition, the divisions have strengthened their joint assessments of situations requiring preventive action by increasing collaboration and enhancing synergies with other parts of the United Nations system.

17. One of the main drivers behind the endeavour to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs was the call for increased United Nations support for the efforts of African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to maintain peace and security on the continent. The reinforced Africa Divisions were able to respond effectively to urgent political crises in Mauritania, the Niger, the Comoros, Somalia and Guinea-Bissau, including by providing mediation support. In the immediate aftermath of the coup d'état in Madagascar, the Department deployed officers on the ground and established a small team at Headquarters to backstop the efforts of the United Nations Senior Political Adviser there. In Guinea, following the massacre of 28 September 2009, the Department-supported United Nations Office in West Africa played a key role alongside other international actors shaping developments that helped to avert the threat of civil war. The Department of Political Affairs also reinforced its support to the Office of the Special Envoy of the

Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, who played an important role in the conclusion of a key agreement between the parties, which, in turn, contributed to a rapprochement between Kinshasa and Kigali. The Department proactively supported mediation efforts in Darfur, including through joint visits to the mission area and participation in the work of the Joint Mediation Support Team that assists the joint African Union/United Nations facilitation. The Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara is now better supported in his quest to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the Western Sahara question, as are the mediation efforts of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the territorial dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

18. The Middle East and West Asia Division, too, has been able to dedicate greater and more attention at the senior level to country-specific issues since the splitting up of its transregional predecessor Division, effectively supporting United Nations efforts to stabilize, promote and strengthen peace in a number of countries, including Iraq, Lebanon, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The additional capacities have also helped the Division to strengthen its support to peacebuilding efforts in Central Asia, its engagement with the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and other countries as well as three regional organizations.

19. The now independent Europe Division improved its support to United Nations peacemaking efforts in Cyprus through strategic analysis and enhanced planning capacity at a pivotal time in the negotiations, achieving promising progress in key areas. Similarly, the Americas Division enhanced its substantive interaction with United Nations country teams and resident coordinators in the region, for instance allowing for helpful engagement during the Honduras crisis. It has also been able to support a reactivation of the Secretary-General's good offices with regard to the long-standing border controversy between Guyana and Venezuela.

20. A limited increase in capacity has enabled the Asia and Pacific Division to provide the Secretary-General with more effective support in his diplomatic engagement and efforts to promote the establishment of durable peace in Sri Lanka after three decades of conflict. The Division also works more closely with United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams towards the consolidation of democratic gains and political stability in countries such as Bangladesh and Maldives.

21. Acting as a force multiplier for those who lead political processes is the Policy and Mediation Division; its expertise on the planning, procedural design, and technical issues of peace processes draw on its own internal capacities as well as external partnerships. The Division's standby team includes experts on security arrangements, constitutions, power-sharing, natural resources/wealth-sharing and gender. To provide just one example, in Central Asia, the Division assisted the Governments of the region in developing arrangements on joint management of shared water and energy resources.

22. To ensure close collaboration within the United Nations, the Policy and Mediation Division chairs two mediation focal point systems, one within the Department of Political Affairs and another that brings together 18 different United Nations departments, agencies and funds.

B. Backstopping field operations

23. The Department of Political Affairs now leads 11 political and peacebuilding missions in the field, 10 of which are funded through the special political mission provision of the regular budget.[2] While resolution 63/261 did not provide for new resources for backstopping missions, additional staff in other areas has allowed regional divisions to reallocate some capacities to fulfil the significant backstopping and support responsibilities that this entails, while also relying on extrabudgetary funds and support from the Department of Field Support.

24. The two Africa Divisions have provided higher quality support to field offices on the continent, including the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), the United Nations Integrated Office for Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). Such support allows the missions to perform critical peace consolidation tasks. In Sierra Leone, for instance, it helped the mission to focus on follow-up to key political agreements, as well as conflict prevention and confidence-building measures, in preparation for the 2012 elections.

25. The Middle East and West Asia Division has enhanced its support to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), including its engagement on security sector reform and other peacebuilding efforts based on substantive analysis and strategic planning. Considerable resources continue to be deployed in assisting the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). And in the Asia-Pacific region, the fragile political situation and the impasse in the peace process in Nepal has necessitated increased attention and engagement from Headquarters and reinforced support to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN).

26. In order to ensure coherent and coordinated headquarters support and policy guidance to its field presences and to promote integrated approaches with other parts of the United Nations system, in particular United Nations country teams, the Department of Political Affairs has established integrated task forces for all the countries in which the Department has complex missions on the ground. These task forces are mandated to consider all issues that have strategic significance or programmatic impact for the United Nations presence in the relevant country. The strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs has improved its ability to effectively coordinate United Nations system partners and exert leadership to ensure a coherent approach in the area of peace and security.

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[2] The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), the United Nations Integrated Office for Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA).

27. In the same vein, the Department has worked ever more closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on countries with peacekeeping operations, providing mediation and electoral support and political advice, in particular on regional dynamics. For instance, in close collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Asia and Pacific Division has improved its engagement on Timor-Leste, and the Europe Division provided regional advice and political support to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in Kosovo. The Americas Division significantly increased its support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations-led United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in the aftermath of the 12 January 2010 earthquake in that country, monitoring regional political developments and providing analysis and support with regard to elections and constitutional reform. With respect to the Sudan, the Policy and Mediation Division supported the Joint Mediation Support Team for Darfur of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with a cadre of experts supporting the Darfur mediation effort and provided planners from that Department working on the Darfur dossier with analysis on ceasefire implementation and management.

28. Revised Secretary-General's bulletins on the work of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and of the Department of Field Support were released in late 2009 and early 2010[3] to better define the scope of each department's activities, how they interact, and how their respective divisions, units and offices support field missions and operations. The Secretary-General and the Under-Secretaries-General of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to work closely together to ensure that the full range of capacities in all three departments are engaged effectively and efficiently, with a minimum of overlap, to attend to the peace and security challenges facing the United Nations today.

29. The completion of a service level agreement between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support is critical and is being finalized. The agreement clarifies the respective roles of the two departments in support of field-based political missions funded through the special political mission provision of the regular budget.

C. Working with resident coordinators and country teams

30. In countries that are fragile or face political crises but in which there is no peacekeeping or political mission, the Department of Political Affairs engages closely with the United Nations country team on the ground as a critical part of the overall efforts of the United Nations to prevent conflict. The Department has made it a priority to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office on the prevention of armed conflict, under the strategic guidance of senior leadership from the two entities. In such situations the United Nations system is seeking to help national counterparts to develop the processes, institutions and skills necessary to effectively manage and resolve emerging challenges through dialogue, consultation, mediation and other peaceful means. Current efforts focus on an improved political support system for resident coordinators, including joint strategy

[3] ST/SGB/2009/13 and Corr.1, ST/SGB/2010/1 and ST/SGB/2010/2, respectively.

development, more systematic communication and joint analysis, training, as well as more timely and professional operational assistance and expertise.

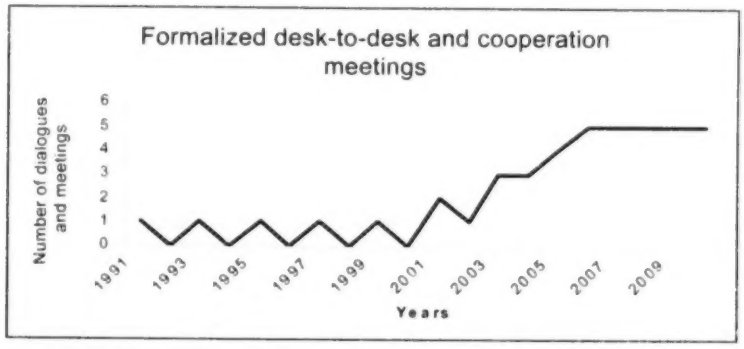
D. Cooperation with regional organizations

31. Today's crises and challenges require multifaceted solutions, making partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations more vital than ever. In the course of the past decade, the United Nations has sought ever closer relations with regional and other organizations, visibly illustrated by co-deployments, joint mediation, and the recent conclusion of new cooperation agreements between the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the World Bank, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

32. The Secretary-General's retreat with Heads of Regional and Other Organizations held in January 2010 provided an important forum to discuss joint action to prevent and resolve conflict. The Department of Political Affairs leads a range of programmes and partnerships carried out under the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union launched in 2006. In addition, the Department is investing significant efforts in building subregional capacity in Africa, especially in the area of mediation. It also explored intensifying cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Caribbean Community. The Department of Political Affairs now runs formalized annual desk-to-desk dialogues or cooperation meetings with six regional organizations, in addition to regular informal meetings with a number of other regional and other organizations. It also organizes joint training sessions with a number of regional and other organizations on a broad range of peace and security issues.

Figure I

Formalized desk-to-desk and cooperation meetings with regional organizations led by the Department of Political Affairs



33. The new United Nations Office to the African Union, which has recently incorporated the strengthened United Nations Liaison Office, has taken a leadership role in moving forward the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme with the African Union, in particular in the area of peace and security. It also ensures close

on-the-ground cooperation and coordination with the African Union and subregional organizations with regard to evolving crises in Africa, in response to which African organizations are taking an increasing leadership role.

34. Efforts by the United Nations Liaison Office were complemented by the two strengthened Africa Divisions of the Department of Political Affairs which improved coherence between the preventive diplomacy/peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities of the African Union and the United Nations, on the continent, not least as a result of more effective and cohesive interaction between the United Nations and African Union secretariats. The Department of Political Affairs is supporting African Union efforts to develop a mediation strategy and has engaged more proactively with the secretariats of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Panel of the Wise. It helped establish a consultative desk-to-desk mechanism with the African Union on prevention, control and resolution of conflicts and it helped the African Union to set up a database for electoral observers and experts for the African Union's Democracy Electoral Assistance Unit.

35. The Department of Political Affairs has further strengthened collaboration and partnerships with subregional organizations and the regional economic communities. For instance, at the request of the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Department has mobilized extrabudgetary resources to work closely with SADC to develop its conflict prevention and mediation capacity. A similar initiative is under way in support of the Economic Community of Central African States, under which the Department of Political Affairs, in close coordination with the Community, is pursuing the establishment of a new regional office in Libreville to increase its attention to conflict prevention in Central Africa. Furthermore, the Department is exploring the request by the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region to assist in the implementation of the 2006 Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. The Department is working with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to implement a subregional security strategy in the Horn of Africa. In West Africa, the United Nations regional office helped to forge innovative relationships with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to address a range of political crises in the subregion. The Department, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, also played a key role in moving forward the West Africa Coast Initiative aimed at supporting the efforts of the Economic Commission of West African States to address illicit drug trafficking and organized crime.

36. In the Americas Division, the establishment of the Caribbean team has spurred the Department of Political Affairs to create a strategic framework for, and strengthen cooperation between, the United Nations and the Caribbean Community. Cooperation with the Organization of American States has been enhanced through two desk-to-desk meetings, covering current and potential activities. A newly focused Europe Division concentrated new energy on strengthening relations, in particular with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, on prevention and peacebuilding, including through senior-level visits and desk-to-desk dialogues.

37. The Asia and Pacific Division has been able to conduct more in-depth analyses of emerging developments in South-East Asia in the context of the new Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the regional body's evolving role in peace and security. The Division engaged more systematically with both ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum. Working with the Department's Mediation Support Unit, the Division is exploring ways in which it can enhance the United Nations ability to support national and regional peacemaking and preventive initiatives.

38. The Middle East and West Asia Division has strengthened its collaboration and partnerships with the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

E. Electoral assistance

39. In his role as the focal point for United Nations electoral assistance activities, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs is supported by the Electoral Assistance Division, which assists with the design and staffing of United Nations electoral activities, provides ongoing technical guidance and maintains both the roster of electoral experts and the Organization's electoral institutional memory. The demand from Member States for electoral assistance remains high; they have recognized the need for strengthening democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building and have requested the United Nations to continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to strengthen their democratic processes (General Assembly resolution 64/155).

40. The strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs has enabled the Electoral Assistance Division to be more effective, including to (a) respond more rapidly and effectively to continued high demand for assistance; (b) expand and diversify the roster of electoral experts; and (c) enhance coherence within the United Nations and coordination with regional organizations.

41. The additional posts allowed for an effective response to the more than 40 electoral projects existing at the time of writing of the present report, as well as 17 new requests received in 2010. Importantly, they enabled a more rapid response to several urgent needs in countries such as Afghanistan, Algeria, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea and the Sudan. Moreover, the regional divisions of the Department of Political Affairs now have increased capacity to contribute political analysis and advice to electoral missions, focusing on efforts to prevent election-related violence. For instance, the Africa Divisions participated in electoral missions in Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mauritania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. The Middle East and West Asia Division helped to support preparations for recent elections in Iraq, Lebanon and several other countries. The Asia and Pacific, Europe and Americas Divisions also participated in electoral support efforts.

42. Additional staffing allowed the Electoral Assistance Division to put the roster into a modern database, as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, thereby allowing the Division to identify more efficiently and speedily suitable candidates for posts in field missions, while ensuring geographic and gender balance (for instance, the roster saw a 60 per cent increase in candidates from the African continent).[4] Deployment on temporary contracts or contractual arrangements is now much faster and thus more effective.

43. The Division has been able to place additional focus on ensuring a "one-United Nations" approach to the provision of electoral assistance. Among other initiatives, the Department of Political Affairs now chairs an Inter-Agency Coordinating body on Election Assistance (which includes UNDP, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and others); and a new note of guidance between UNDP and the Department of Political Affairs outlining respective roles is being finalized. Contacts and coordination have increased with non-United Nations partners; a good example being the current efforts being undertaken with OAS, numerous Member States and NGOs to support the elections in Haiti.

F. Policy and Mediation Division

44. A newly created Policy and Mediation Division has improved the ability of the Department of Political Affairs to lead and inform policy development across a range of prevention, peacebuilding and mediation challenges and to support and backstop desk officers and field missions. In its various roles, The Division is careful not to duplicate, but rather to support, the work of regional divisions and other actors.

45. Increased capacity has positioned the Policy and Mediation Division to support more effectively the Department's conflict prevention mandate by distilling best practices, developing tools, and acting as a catalyst for operational conflict prevention, including by expanding the Department's networks of prevention practitioners across the United Nations system, in regional organizations, the World Bank, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

46. Drawing on the experience of its field missions, The Division leads the Department's efforts to constructively contribute to system-wide efforts to improve United Nations peacebuilding mechanisms, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the 2009 report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304).

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[4] The Office of Internal Oversight Services compared 2006 with 2009 data with regard to regional representation and found a significant increase in the number of experts from Africa from 15 to 24 per cent; this now constitutes the second largest group behind the experts from Western Europe, which remains unchanged at 32 per cent. The number of experts from North America has decreased from 22 to 18 per cent, as has the number from Asia/Pacific (decreasing from 13 to 11 per cent), and Central and South America (decreasing from 10 to 7 per cent). The number of experts from Eastern Europe increased slightly from 5 to 6 per cent, while the share of experts from the Middle East decreased from 2.3 to 1 per cent. The share of female electoral experts in the roster overall stayed at 29 per cent between 2006 and 2009.

47. In its capacity as Chair of the Working Group of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on preventing and resolving conflict, the Policy and Mediation Division, in collaboration with Member States and regional organizations, helps to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, outlined in pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Division now has modestly increased capacity to carry out country-specific and region-specific projects in this area. One such example is Central Asia, where the Working Group and UNRCCA are engaged in a project to assist five Member States in developing a regional action plan on the implementation of the Strategy.

48. The Division is helping the Department as well as United Nations and non-United Nations entities to devise innovative policy responses to emerging peace and security issues. Currently, the Division is focusing on issues such as unconstitutional changes of government, transnational drug trafficking and management of scarce natural resources.

49. The Policy and Mediation Division is also allowing the Department to make significant strides in strengthening its institutional learning processes. The Department now has a system of developing, approving and disseminating internal guidance, and has produced guidelines in such critical areas as the support of special political missions. Reflecting the need to ensure better coherence between political field missions and United Nations country teams, the Department has been able to contribute to system-wide policymaking on integrated approaches through the active participation in the inter-agency and interdepartmental bodies such as the integrated mission planning process Working Group and the Integration Steering Group.

G. Security Council affairs

50. The Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch in the Security Council Affairs Division provides substantive support to 11 Security Council sanctions committees and 7 sanctions monitoring groups. The Branch also services the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1540 (2004) Committee, and processes de-listing requests submitted by petitioners (individuals and entities on sanctions committee lists) pursuant to Security Council resolution 1730 (2006). The additional resources have allowed the Branch to manage the growth in committees and monitoring groups, both in terms of numbers and expanding mandates.

51. The resources have also enabled the Branch to provide critical assistance to the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee as it embarked on the complex undertaking of conducting its review of 488 individuals and entities included on its sanctions list. Additional human resources have also provided enhanced support to the Panel of Experts on the Sudan and increased the Branch's capacity to process and maintain easy to analyse records of de-listing requests submitted by petitioners pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006).

III. Challenges

52. General Assembly resolution 63/261 greatly improved the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs to deliver on its core mandated activities. However, the fact that only half of the originally requested posts were approved by the

General Assembly means that the Department continues to operate with insufficient capacity in a number of areas, requiring it to rely on extrabudgetary and other ad hoc arrangements.

A. Management oversight

53. The Secretary-General had proposed the establishment of six regional divisions, each headed by a director at the D-2 level and a deputy director at the D-1 level to ensure maximum oversight, representation and coverage. However, the General Assembly decided that two of those divisions (the Americas Division and the Asia and Pacific Division) should be headed only by D-1s and one division (the Europe Division) headed by a D-2 with no D-1 to provide the necessary backup. The lack of consistency across the six regional divisions remains a major problem in the Department's engagement with Member States and regional and subregional organizations, and hampers managerial oversight.

B. Use of extrabudgetary resources

54. Given the fact that the resources approved were less than half of what had been requested, the Department of Political Affairs must continue to rely, to a significant degree, on extrabudgetary resources, to effectively implement the vision laid out in resolution 62/521, particularly in the area of rapid response.

55. Since 2009, the Department has transformed its trust fund architecture and introduced new funding windows and fast-track procedures designed to support quick action as political and security crises arise. Learning from best practices in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other agencies, funds and programmes, the Department introduced improvements in the management of extrabudgetary resources, launching its first annual appeal in 2010. This provided a more strategic approach to resource mobilization in support of the Department's overall priorities, focusing on five clusters: flexible funding for rapid response in mediation and conflict prevention; flexible funding for rapid response in election-related activities; funding in support of special envoys and special political missions; support to strategic partnerships in particular with regional organizations; and support to capacity-building and professionalization of the Department. Reliance on extrabudgetary resources brings its own difficulties, of course, and the current appeal remains seriously underfunded.

56. The Department has also developed a framework for monitoring and evaluation to increase the accountability for the management and administration of resources. In addition, has established guidelines and a database for the management of extrabudgetary funds. However, it continues to rely on extrabudgetary resources to properly implement the new framework and perform thorough self-evaluations and focus on the improvements of its regular budgetary programme delivery, as called for in resolution 63/261.

C. External relations

57. Effectively managing external communications — strategy and messaging — is critical to the overall political work of the United Nations and an essential part of successful peacemaking and preventive diplomacy. The Department of Political Affairs has difficulty meeting basic requirements, owing to the lack of any dedicated in-house capacity. Continued reliance on ad hoc arrangements hampers the Department's ability to communicate effectively in support of peace processes and political missions and to promote the importance of United Nations preventive action as a cost-effective means of managing crises and engaging with Member States.

D. Funding and backstopping of special political missions

58. A critical United Nations capability that continues to lack effective support and funding modalities are field missions funded through the special political mission provision of the regular budget. The fact that these missions are funded from the regular budget and, unlike peacekeeping missions, do not enjoy pre-mandate commitment authority, delays and complicates their establishment, and leads to corresponding recruitment and rapid deployment, logistics and procurement problems. Furthermore, funding procedures do not provide for a headquarters capacity to backstop these missions (which includes strategic planning and assessment, coordination with regional and subregional organizations and groups of friends, support for integration with United Nations country teams, and reporting requirements to intergovernmental bodies). They also undermine the Department's capacity to quickly respond to Security Council mandate changes and in-country political transitions.

59. The Security Council increasingly relies on and mandates political field missions to support peace processes (UNMIN), to work with multinational forces in very insecure environments (UNPOS and UNAMI), and to protect peacekeeping investments (BINUB and UNIPSIL). The Department of Field Support, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs have worked hard to improve collaboration and mutual institutional support. Member States have also made considerable investments in rapidly deployable capacities to support peacekeeping operations, in particular in the areas of security sector reform, corrections and policing, as well as the services of the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman. Yet, current budgeting modalities still deny field missions led by the Department of Political Affairs easy access to those capacities because of a lack of a support account.

60. A flexible mechanism should be developed to provide the United Nations system with the requisite and variable capacity to adequately backstop and manage political missions in line with their size and mandate, including a modest equivalent to the peacekeeping pre-mandate commitment authority. As noted in the updated report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, these proposals and options will be brought up at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

E. Capacity of the Executive Office of the Department of Political Affairs

61. The General Assembly established three positions (1 P-3 and 2 GS) funded from general temporary assistance to strengthen the Executive Office's ability to administer missions led by the Department of Political Affairs funded through the special political mission provision of the regular budget. The much-needed resources have enabled the Executive Office to better provide support to the 12 special political missions it currently administers.[5]

62. However, pressures continue to grow. For instance, an additional 6 posts and 15 experts and consultants were approved in 2010 for special political missions, an increase of 30 per cent from the 2009 budget. Moreover, with the growth of the Department by 49 additional staff, the day-to-day human resources requirements of administering 275 staff (excluding staff attached to the special political missions) has increased, with no additional regular budget capacity. This will need to be addressed in the context of the 2012-2013 regular budget cycle.

F. Travel funds

63. Given the transformation of the Department of Political Affairs and the increased demand for its services, assistance and rapid, on-the-ground response to a range of emerging political challenges, there is an acute lack of funding for travel under the regular budget allocation for the Department, especially since travel to accompany the Secretary-General accounts for 18 per cent of the expenditures. The regular budget covers only about a third of the Department's real travel costs, forcing it to resort to extrabudgetary funding in order to cover the travel that is necessary to carry out its mandates.

IV. Conclusion

64. The decision of the General Assembly to strengthen the Department of Political Affairs has reinforced the Department's ongoing transformation into a more proactive and operational platform for conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. The Secretary-General is encouraged by the growing recognition by Member States and regional organizations both of the importance of investing in conflict prevention and the Department's ability to respond quickly and in a cost-effective manner to emerging crises. This, in turn, has led to an increased

[5] The cluster I and cluster II special political missions administered by the Executive Office are: Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), Monitoring Group concerning Somalia and Eritrea, Panel of Experts on Liberia, Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Panel of Experts on the Sudan, Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and the Panel of Experts on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

demand for the Department's services in prevention, mediation, and capacity-building.

65. The Secretary-General is very grateful to Member States for the political and financial support they have extended to the Department of Political Affairs, through resolution 63/261 and beyond. He looks forward to continuing the conversation with Member States on how to further implement his vision of a Department of Political Affairs that is more operational, agile and effective in its responsibilities, especially through improvements in establishing, supporting, and funding special political missions.